

# VALLEY FARMER.

A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and Domestic Economy, Adapted  
To the Wants of the People of the Mississippi Valley.

VOL. VI. SAINT LOUIS, MAY, 1854.

NO. 5.

## The Valley Farmer.

### Who Gets the Saddies?

It will be recollected at the State Fair last fall we announced the following premiums:

"To any county in the State of Missouri, in which an agricultural Fair shall be held in the Autumn of 1854, that shall send in the largest number of new annual paying subscribers to the Valley Farmer, between the 15th of September, 1853, and the 1st of April, 1854, according to the population of the county (taking the U. S. Census for 1850 as the basis) we will give the best Ladies' Riding Saddle that can be bought in the city of St. Louis for Twenty Dollars, to be given to the lady who shall exhibit at the Fair five pounds of the best butter. The butter to be accompanied with a written statement of the manner of making, which statement together with the butter receiving the premium, after the award shall be the property of the Editor of the Valley Farmer.

"To the second largest number under the same regulations, the best Saddle that can be had for Twelve Dollars.

"Counties in which no County Fair is held may compete for these premiums, and have the awards made at the State Fair, or at any County Fair contiguous to them."

We also promised in the May number of this year that we would announce which counties would be entitled to these premiums, and also where the premiums would

be paid, and the course to be pursued by those who would compete for them.

After carefully examining our book we now therefore announce that HENRY County is entitled to the first premium, having sent in one name for every 119 inhabitants.

And that LAWRENCE County is entitled to the second premium, having sent in one name for every 136 inhabitants. Cooper County followed close upon Lawrence, and Boone, Randolph and Fayette, and several other counties were not far behind.

As there are no County Societies in either Henry or Lawrence counties these premiums will be paid at the State Fair; and we hope to be present to deliver them in person—Hurrah for South West Missouri!!

We deem it due to the Ladies to say that Henry County gets the premium chiefly through the exertions of Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton, who has sent in more names of subscribers to the Valley Farmer than any other person in the State, with two exceptions—Hurrah for the Ladies!!!

We trust that our subscribers and readers in Henry and Lawrence Counties will give notice to all good butter makers in their respective counties to send samples of their butter to the State Fair. It may be sent to the Secretary of the Society, Jo. L. Stephens, Esq, who will see that it is properly entered and exhibited, and after the awards the butter will be sold for the benefit of the owners, excepting, of course the premium butter, which will belong to the Editor of the Valley Farmer.

*To every reader of the Valley Farmer.*

Wishing to increase as far as possible the circulation of the Valley Farmer and thereby augment our abilities to increase its usefulness and value to every subscriber we ask your assistance in an effort which we propose making to place it in the hands of many persons not hitherto readers of its pages.

To accomplish this we propose to furnish the remaining numbers of the current year—from June to December—for one half the rates for the entire year—seven numbers for half the yearly price.

At very considerable expense we have procured a set of engravings of the various breeds of cattle, which will be used during the ensuing months of this year to illustrate a series of articles which will be commenced in the next, or June number, and will be completed within the year. These articles alone will be worth more than the subscription price of the paper to any person at all interested in Stock Raising. It will be recollected that they were promised in December last, but owing to the delay in filling our order for cuts we have not been able to commence them until now.

We shall give during the fall full and accurate reports of the doings of the different State and County Agricultural Societies in those sections where our paper mostly circulates and also strive with renewed industry and application to maintain the present high character of the publication as a manual of general agricultural improvement. The Domestic Department will also receive a large share of attention, and continue to merit the high encomiums which have hitherto been so freely bestowed upon it.

We desire your aid in this matter among your neighbors and friends. We send out no traveling agents, but rely upon our friends. Can you not send us one, two, three or more subscriptions for the last half of the year, and thereby induce some of your neighbors to read the paper for a short time in the hope that they will afterwards become permanent subscribers?

Terms, from June to December: Single

copies 50 cents; four copies for \$1.50; seven copies for \$2.50, and fifteen copies for \$5.00.

#### Mo. State Agricultural Society.

We find in the *Boonville Observer* a short account of the meeting of the Directors of this Society. It says, "The President, Directors and other Officials and members of the Society, met at the office of Capt. Stephens, the Recording Secretary, on Monday, the 1st inst., and continued in session two days, for the purpose of arranging a "Premium List," for the second Annual Exhibition in October next, which will commence on Monday, the 1st, and continue five days.

"The following officers of the Society were in attendance: Ex-Governor M. M. Marmaduke, President; Dr. Trigg, Treasurer; Capt. J. L. Stephens, Recording Secretary; Jno. McNeal, Thos. A. Sampson, Dabney Garth, Theadoric Jenkins, Col. Samuel Young, S. Hardeman and Charles McCormick, Directors. The premium list was increased from \$1000 to \$2000, and 5000 copies were ordered to be printed in pamphlet form, for distribution throughout the State. A resolution was passed, authorizing the Recording Secretary to address a complimentary letter of invitation to every editor, connected with the Missouri Press, to attend the Fair.

"We believe that the President and Officers of the Society have manifested a praiseworthy concern and diligence in their endeavors to promote the Agricultural and Mechanical interests of Missouri, through an institution which had its origin in State patronage, and properly bears the name of the State. We have not examined the premium list, but from the general interest which has been manifested on the part of the directors and members of the Society, we have no doubt it will be as satisfactory as their present resources will permit. Experience and additional names, will yearly extend its usefulness. It will be an excellent and appropriate opportunity for the manufacturers and merchants of St. Louis,

to cultivate an acquaintance with the interior; and they will be represented in our next Annual Exhibition."

The *Fulton Telegraph* has the following additional particulars:

"The list of premiums for the October Fair has been arranged, and its publication will be looked for with interest. In the leading articles for exhibition the prizes have been materially changed from what they were last fall, with an addition of 50 per cent to the premiums offered. A number of minor articles not before included, have been added to the list, making it more complete.

"The Board appropriated \$2,000 to be expended for improving the show grounds and erecting a repository, which will make them equal in all respects to those of the older States.

"A committee was appointed to ask of the State Legislature an additional donation of \$2,000 annually, for the benefit of the Society; also to reduce the membership fee from \$5 to \$2 50. A committee was appointed to memorialize Congress for a grant of land to aid in the more permanent establishment of the Society.

"Robert Sinclair, Esq., of Audrain county, was elected one of the Vice Presidents, in lieu of the vacancy caused by the death of Chas. Broadwater, of St. Charles."

For the Valley Farmer.

#### Cultivation of Asparagus.

DEAR SIR,—I wish to furnish my share of experience, if you deem the following worth being published in your valuable *Valley Farmer*, which I esteem more and more.

To obtain a good asparagus yield, you must choose plants from seeds and not splits, those of two year old are the best. The ground should have some elevation so as to be naturally dry, and the earth light and sandy. Before planting you open trenches two and a half feet wide by same depth, parallel and three feet three inches distant. The earth taken from these trenches will be placed between, keeping

the upper part by itself. In those trenches you place about one foot of good horse and cattle manure, or only horse manure which you cover with the reserved upper earth, then you place the plants at two feet six inches distance from each other, and cover them with the same earth about three or four inches thick. That done you keep quiet until next year. In the fall you cover with manure mixed with straw, and the following spring you plow lightly and throw a few inches of earth from each side in the trench, and so on every year until the ground is even: and this is the reason why: the asparagus is composed of two parts; the level on which are formed the part that we eat, and the roots. Well, this level as it grows tends to rise to the surface, and rises every year a few inches according to its vigor or age, so that in a few years, no matter how deep it has been planted, it reaches the surface of the ground. This method of planting obviates such an inconvenience, besides it has the advantage of keeping the asparagus field free of bad herbs. It is ordinarily the virgin earth which is thrown into the trenches, it being less liable to frost. By opening the trenches from east to west, they are protected against the north wind. Besides, the asparagus takes its nutriment from virgin earth, and all gardeners are aware that such earth is much richer in alkaline salts than superficial earth, then alkalies are precisely the most favorable substances for the growth of this plant; and the best stimulant would be either ashes or soap-suds. With this proceeding the asparagus will be much longer, tender and delicate. Accept Mr. Editor, the expression of my most profound esteem, and my sympathy for the noble task you have undertaken.

Yours faithfully,

HENRI KOMLY.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.—The proposition to raise \$1,200,000, by a direct tax on the people of St. Louis county, to aid in the completion of this road, was submitted to the people on Monday, May, 8th, and carried by near 3,000 majority,

## Correspondence.

An old and prompt subscriber in Illinois writes us as follows: "Having met with a heavy loss by having my house burnt down and its contents burnt up, I am under the disagreeable necessity of having to curtail all my expenses that I can possibly do without, among which is your truly valuable paper the Farmer. I am sorry to have to part with such a valuable old friend and fireside companion, but such are my pecuniary circumstances at this time that I do not see any help for it, yet if I live, as soon as circumstances will admit I intend to send for it again. The good instructions to be gleaned from the Family Circle of your paper are worth the subscription price. May God bless the efforts of your better half in doing good, and may the Family Circle stand as a bright gem in her crown in a future day." We cannot afford to part with such a good friend thus; and shall therefore continue to send him the Farmer, allowing him the privilege of paying for it when it suits his convenience; or not at all if he feels unable. We have no fears of such a man.

Dr. J. M. Keith, of Lafayette county, writes: "Just as I was despairing of ever receiving the *Valley Farmer* again, the March No. came to hand, filled with more than its usual amount of valuable reading matter. This is the first number of the *Farmer* I have received since December. Who is at fault? If the fault is with you please send me the January and February numbers, as I think more highly of the *Farmer* than any of my Agricultural Journals. I am unwilling to lose any of the numbers if it can be helped. With us the spring is pleasant and the farmers are in fine spirits. Surely a brighter day has dawned upon our farmers and is manifesting itself in the eagerness with which they seek for all the agricultural improvements of the day. The Agricultural Society of this county has purchased 20 acres of land in the vicinity of Lexington, to be used as Fair Grounds, and is fitting it up in a style and taste as will make it inferior to none in the State." We

hope to make this one of the Fairs which we will be able to attend this fall. We have many warm friends in Lafayette county, and we earnestly desire to spend a few days with them. The paper has been regularly sent and we know not why it has not come to hand.

A leading agriculturist in Illinois writes: "The farmers everywhere, but here in the West especially, stand in very great need of a *vade mecum* to instruct them in a thousand little details relative to the business of husbandry, which no one can carry in his head. What is universally needed is a book alphabetically arranged, a *Farmer's Dictionary*, which might be comprised in a neat volume and afforded at one dollar a copy. The more voluminous and scientific works do not answer the farmer's need, nor indeed are they within his reach. A practical work of this kind issued from the office of the *Valley Farmer*, would find a very extensive sale and greatly promote the circulation of your journal. I think I might very safely say that such a work reasonably well got up, would find a very large sale in this county. It is just what the farmers need. Every man feels the want of such a book and there is nothing in the western market to supply its place. Please think of it." We have thought a great deal about it and shall continue to think—perhaps to some purpose. We know that such a book is much needed of a western character.

DESTRUCTION OF TIMBER.—Our readers will find in this issue a number of articles on this subject, called out by the enquiries propounded last month. It will be seen that the writers differ somewhat in their opinions, and we hope the subject will be continued until the truth is fully elucidated. We haven't expressed our opinion yet, but wait to hear what others say. We just happened on the following remarks in the *Ohio Farmer*, from the pen of H. B. Palmer, of Geneva. He says, "in regard to the best time for cutting trees to deaden the roots and stumps, and prevent the



sprouts and stumps from growing, I would briefly state that the best time is in the month of August, in the old moon when the sign is in the heart, if it should so happen; or when the moon is smallest, if new: when it is nearest to the last quarter when the sign is as above mentioned. During most of the month of August a greater quantity of sap is excluded from the roots, being in the body and branches of the tree, than at any other season of the year; therefore depriving the roots of the most important nutriment for sending forth sprouts.

As whimsical as this may seem to you and the numerous readers of your excellent paper, it is nevertheless true, and one trial will convince the most skeptical. This year the time for cutting will be best from the 20th to the 26th of August."

**DESTRUCTION OF TIMBER.**—Mr. F. Valentine, of St. Charles Co. writes as follows: "I see some questions put to you in the last number of the Farmer headed 'Destruction of Timber,' which I feel very anxious to see solved. Living altogether on thinly timbered land which has now to be cleared by a very slow and costly process of unrooting all the saplings, we are unable to avail ourselves to a great extent of many of the modern inventions and agricultural implements, as Reapers, Horse Rakes, &c. Could not the killing and rotting of trees and stumps be quickened by a chemical process?" Will some of our readers who can, answer?

**CULTURE OF FLAX.**—Moore's Rural New Yorker says that the soil best adapted for the growth of flax, is a dry, deep loam, with a clay subsoil, and as a general rule, all soils need underdraining for its profitable production. The preparation of the soil is of great importance. Flax requires emphatically clean culture. A wheat stubble, harrowed or cultivated as soon as the wheat is off, so that all small seeds may germinate, and then plowed in the fall and left rough, exposed to the meliorating effects of frost, is the plan we should recommend.

Many good cultivators prefer sod ground plowed deep, very early in the spring, harrowing and cultivating till it is quite mellow. If cultivated for seed alone, one bushel of seed will be sufficient, as thin sowing causes the plant to throw out branches which bear abundance of seed. The more fertile the soil, the less seed should be sown, as the plant will tiller more. If the object be flax, two and a half bushels (126 lbs.) is about the proper quantity, varying less or more, according to the richness of the soil. The object of so much seed, is to prevent the plant from branching out, and to obtain a tall and slender stem. In selecting the seed, choose that which is shining and slippery, not too plump and of a brownish red color. The earlier it is sown in April, if the weather and soil are favorable, the better. Ten bushels per acre of seed and 400 pounds of flax is a good crop. There is no better manure for flax than well rotted barn yard dung. Peruvian guano is also very good, and has the additional advantage of being free from all weeds. Two to four hundred pounds per acre may be sown broadcast and harrowed in. We trust our experienced readers will give us their views on the culture of flax, its comparative profit, &c.

### The Crops, Fruit, &c.

Notwithstanding the occurrence during the latter part of April of some of the severest hail storms we ever witnessed, we have the satisfaction of assuring our readers that from all parts of the land we hear cheering news of the prospect of an abundance of fruit and that the growing crops of wheat, of grass and the earlier spring crops look exceedingly promising. Spring work is backward in some sections owing to repeated rains, which, though not of long duration, have served to keep the ground too wet for working; but there is plenty of time yet for all spring crops. Never were the prospects of the farmer more encouraging than now. Every article of produce is in demand at the highest prices: general health; the promise of abun-

dant crops, and a bright presage for the future! Who does not now magnify the farmer's calling?

To the Western farmer, in particular the future is rich in promise. The last ten years have materially diminished the distance between his farm and the great eastern markets, thereby in point of market placing him about on an equality with the farmers of the old Eastern States; while the unexampled fertility of our soils, and the congeniality of our climate places him immeasurably in advance of them. Ought he not to be very grateful to that benign being who has cast his lot in such a goodly heritage?

As the prospect is now we may safely calculate upon the largest harvest of wheat, corn and oats ever raised, and unless all predictions fail, a higher price will be obtained for all of these articles than ever before. It will be seen by our market reports that the stock market still maintains an upward tendency. How *big* it will go it is impossible to say, but to us denizens of the city who have to buy our meat at the shambles, it becomes a matter of serious inquiry—not whether the *bottom* of the market is knocked out, but whether there is any *top*. The palpable fact that our butchers do not hesitate to ask fifteen cents a pound for choice pieces of beef, makes many a one reconciled to a second rate cut. But this argues well for the prosperity of the country. If it flourishes no danger but the city will come in for its full share of the prosperity, and the city merchant or mechanic may console himself with the idea that if he does have to pay a good round price for the produce of the farm, the money comes back to him in an increased price and sale of the “goods, wares and merchandise” which make up the availabilities of the city business.

We cut a few extracts from our exchanges on the subject of the crops, to show the general sentiment:

**CROPS, &c.**—We took a stroll into the country a few days since, and were a little surprised to see the prospect for coming wheat crop in this country so good.

We think we never saw wheat look better at this season of the year than it does at the present. Judging from the fields we saw, we are of opinion that there will be a large yield this year for the amount sowed last fall. We had supposed that the cold, dry winter had killed out a good deal of the crop, but the spring rains came on early enough to restore it. The farmers are all very busy—some breaking out the balance of their hemp, other engaged in sowing, and doing both. We are informed that there will, in all probability, be considerable hemp in the county this season that will not be broken, owing to the scarcity of help, and the fact, that the crop did not become sufficiently rotted early enough last winter to enable them to commence breaking, till about the middle of February. The prospect for fruit in this country is very good. The frost on Sunday night last injured the peach crop somewhat; but there will no doubt be an abundance if no more frosts fall on them.—[Weston (Mo.) Reporter. 20th.]

**WHEAT CROP.**—Farmers in Morgan and adjoining counties, are now in excellent spirits at the prospect of a remarkably good crop of wheat. There was not, we believe, so much sown last Fall as the Fall preceeding, but it is predicted by our most intelligent agriculturists, that the yield will be equal to that of last year. This, with the prospect of high rates for breadstuffs, is good news for Illinois.—Jacksonville Constitutionist.

**FRUIT.**—An intelligent gentleman in the Southern portion of the county, writes as that by the severe frosts week before last, many of the old peach orchards are almost entirely destroyed. Young trees, however, are not injured, and there is still a fine prospect for a good crop of all kinds, except early peaches.—[Ib.]

#### The Fruit Crop.

In our last number we were exulting over the prospect of an abundant fruit crop—luxurating in the dream of banishing ourself to the peach orchards in the “ripening days of autumn;” but Thursday and Friday nights gave our warm hopes and redolent flood of blossoms, on which our hopes depended, fearful chills. Surely if anything can be out of place in

the order of Nature, those two nights were badly out of place, they properly belonged to the freezing herd of March—were estray from their dating point in the chronicle of the Seasons, who joined the vernal troop of April, with the malicious intention of blighting the good work going on; they should have been taken up and advertised as mischief doers abroad, ere they had time to perpetrate their designs. Fortunately, however, some of the blossoms, though tender and ill prepared for such "untimely frost," withstood the "nip" and refused to wilt—enough, we hope to make the crop sufficient, though not extremely plentiful.—*Pekin (Ill.) Plaindealer.*

#### The American Pomological Society.

We desire to call the particular attention of nurserymen and fruit growers to the following circular, issued by President WILDER, on the 1st of April. The meeting, it will be seen, is to be held simultaneously with the annual autumn exhibition of the Massachusetts Society. This strikes us as an excellent arrangement, not only because the time, (13th to 17th of September,) is a convenient one to a large majority of those who will be likely to attend; but because it will afford them an opportunity, without consuming extra time, to witness the magnificent display which the Massachusetts Society never fails to make on these occasions.

No city in the United States offers so many attractions to persons interested in Pomology and other branches of horticulture, as Boston. There we find every department—fruit culture, floriculture, the construction of dwellings, and the embellishment of gardens, all in the highest and most perfect condition to which they have yet attained on this continent. There we find genuine gardening taste and skill and enthusiasm, such as we cannot find elsewhere. There will be an immense meeting at Boston, both on account of the attractions to which we have alluded, and of the deep and general interest taken in the subject in all parts of the country.

During the two years last past, the number of persons interested and actual-

ly engaged in fruit culture in this country must have been more than doubled, we think, and information is greatly needed and no less keenly sought for. We trust that practical, observing men, in all parts of the country, will aid in promoting the objects of the Society, as set forth in this circular. No time is now to be lost in making notes for the season, and collecting such information as committees will be expected to furnish. We shall publish a complete list of the State committees as soon as we can learn their names.

In this connection we must also call attention to some excellent suggestions in the communication of an esteemed correspondent, which will be found on another page. The results of such meetings depend much upon the manner in which the proceedings are conducted, whether they are satisfactory or not. The men who will attend them are generally working men, who can but ill afford to be away from home, and as a matter of course they desire not to lose time in profitless remarks or discussions, but that every moment be turned to the best possible account.—*Horticulturist.*

#### Hemp Premiums.

The following named gentleman, at the Annual Exhibition of hemp, of the North-Western Missouri Agricultural Society held in this city on Monday, the 1st, inst received the following premiums offered by the Board of Directors of said Society:

For the best crop of Hemp containing thirty acres and upwards, \$20 00 to Oliver C. Steele. The second best crop of Hemp, containing thirty acres and upwards, \$10 00 to Dr. Thos. Beaumont. No crop of Hemp from twenty to thirty acres exhibited. For the crop of Hemp containing from twelve to twenty acres, \$12 00 to Samuel Pepper. The second best crop of Hemp, containing from twelve to twenty acres, \$6 00 to John D. Pepper. The best crop of Hemp containing from five to twelve acres, \$8 00 to A. Risk. This last crop exhibited, though without competition, in the opinion of the Judges, was entitled to a premium. Judges, Joseph Nower, Geo. W. Belt, and John F. Baker.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer.

### Rhubarb, or Pie Plant.

*RHUBARB*, *Rheum*, belongs to the class and order *Enneandra Trigynia*, and natural order *Polygonæa*. Several species are cultivated in our gardens, the *Victoria* being the largest.

The *Rheum Palmatum* is a native of Tartary, and was long supposed to be the true rhubarb, but Professor David Don has lately shown that the *Rheum Emodi* of Dr. Wallich is the medicinal plant, the cultivation of which in England has been attempted, but not with the success which could be wished for so useful and valuable a medicine. The Duke of Athol, some years ago, at the suggestion of Dr. Hope, of Edinburgh, carried the cultivation of this plant to a considerable extent. The roots, which he cultivated in light sandy soil, similar to that of the Tartarian Desert, grew to a considerable size, but on being dried it was found to shrink to one quarter its original weight. There is great reason to believe that if the *Rheum Emodi* could be cultivated in this country (and I do not see why it could not) for medicinal purposes, it would be much better than the imported article, on account of the Mogul Tartars pulling up the roots indiscriminately, piercing them at one end, and slinging them on their horses, and then leaving them to dry without further care.

*Rheum—Raphenicum*—is a native of Asia, and was introduced into England in 1573. It has been longer in cultivation than any of the other varieties.

*Rheum—Hybridum*—is also a native of Asia, and introduced in 1788. There are several other varieties, such as the *Tobolsk* and *Giant*.

Within a few years the cultivation of this wholesome vegetable has very much increased in the vicinity of all our large markets, and no family should be without at least a dozen roots, a quantity sufficient for a moderate sized family. The roots may be had from any nurseryman at about twenty-five cents each, or you can raise them from seed. The seed should be sown in the spring, in any good garden

soil, and the spring following should be transplanted into a bed previously prepared. You cannot well give rhubarb too much manure. Plant the roots say three feet apart each way. There will be some stalks fit for use the first year, but it will not be good policy to pull until the second or even the third year. The roots when once planted must remain in the ground, and in the fall, after the leaves have died down, cover it say six inches thick with manure. In the spring, as soon as you can discover where your roots are, dig in this manure, and rake your bed fine; keep down the weeds, and when you see any of the plants running to seed, pinch them off, as they will only serve to weaken the plant. The roots should be planted with the crowns about two inches beneath the surface.

As for the mode of preparing this plant for the table, I am not quite cook enough, I fear, but I will try to give you two methods: When the stalks are long enough, generally from six to eighteen inches, pull them up; cut off the leaves and peel the stalk. This is easily done by commencing at the top end; then cut into pieces about an inch or so in length; put a little water into your stew pan, about enough to cover the bottom, then put in your rhubarb and boil until it is reduced to a pulp, stirring it well; and add sugar to your taste—I cannot name the proper quantity—and serve it up as a sauce.

This stewed pulp may be put into pies or tarts and then baked the ordinary way. I have heard it said that rhubarb makes excellent jam.

A writer in the *Horticulturist* makes the following remarks in relation to the Pie Plant.

"All who had any experience in the matter are fully convinced of the luxury and healthfulness of fresh and succulent substances for pies at all seasons of the year. Yet the idea has never suggested itself to the many, or if it has it is not practiced upon, that a cycle of such substances may be had, so as to furnish fresh materials through the year. The pie plant



furnishes a beautiful link in this connected chain; coming, as it does, when apples begin to lose their freshness, or, as they are in many families, not to be found at all, and before gooseberries, which have not yet found a place in one garden of twenty to any tolerable extent. Yet how few cultivate the pie plant! Why, we know not; for nearly all are fond of it when properly cooked, and it can be raised just as easy as the burdock when once introduced into the soil. Neither of them will grow successfully in poor soils. The burdock chooses a location for itself, and the pie plant is nearly always thrust into some poor corner of the neglected garden, and then blamed excessively if it will not produce large, fine foot-stalks where even common weeds would refuse to grow, and where no grass would vegetate, unless it be the ever intrusive quack.

"We once planted some miserable, puny roots of the pie plant in a rich, deep soil. The consequence was, the next year the size of the footstalk increased one-half. The following autumn, before the setting in of frost, we covered the bed some three or four inches deep with fresh horse manure. This kept the roots in fine preservation through the winter; and early in the spring, when the ground was fairly settled, the manure mixed with the earth by a deep and thorough forking. No wonder that the vigor of our plants was increased in a wonderful proportion! As soon as any buds appeared they were taken off—the leaves were cut as often as they became large enough for use. The next autumn we gave the usual protection of manure, and the following spring we forked it in. This course we have followed for four years with some plants we took from neglected grass land.

"Now mark, if you please, the result: from the miserable, puny leaves and stalks of the first year's growth, when the stalks were not more than six inches long and proportionally slender, we have now large broad leaves, and stalks so strong that all who see them are enquiring where we got our new variety of plant, so luxuriant, strong

and beautiful. The answer is conclusive: cultivation has done it; and the simple process we have followed, if pursued by others, will, on a small piece of land, and with very little labor, furnish them with an abundance of pie material at the season when, with many, there is the greatest dearth in that article. If gypsum is sown on the young leaves when the dew is on, it will push their growth finely by aiding the manure at the roots in giving them nourishment. We have no doubt but this article can be raised in the way we have adopted so as to furnish it to cultivators at the rate of enough for a pie for half a penny. What a cheap comfort!

"We have noticed another error in the cultivation of this plant. It consists in raising it in elevated beds, formed by making a large frame of slabs or boards and filling it with manure and earth, in which the roots are planted. This may give them a rich soil, but not a good one—too dry decidedly. It may answer well in early spring, when rains are frequent and plenty; but as summer approaches, and long, dry, warm days come on, the plants must suffer for want of proper moisture—the leaf-stalk will lose its succulence, become stringy, insipid, concoct more of the acid principle, by which it is rendered unpalatable, if not injurious—and thus its value for half the season be entirely lost; while with a proper locality and care it will furnish a good article, always at hand until September, thus giving a grateful variety to the rich contributions of the summer months."

#### HOW TO TREAT YOUNG APPLE TREES.—

A correspondent of Pulaski county gives the following as his way of treating young apple trees after they are set out in the orchard: "Cultivate and keep them clean. Every Spring I wash them well in ley, using a swab made by winding tow around a stick. This I dip in the ley then rub up and down the tree, as high as I can. It makes the bark look smooth and keeps the worms from them. I have an orchard five years old, and the worms have never interfered with a single tree."

For the Valley Farmer.

### Deadening Timber.

MADISON CO., ILL., April 27, 1854.

MR. EDITOR:—In answer to the inquiry made by T. C. H. in your April number, I would just say that the same time for cutting down or deadening young timber in order to prevent sprouting around the stump and insure a speedy decay of stump and root will serve for both objects. And as I have had a good deal of experience in timber I propose to answer the two first inquiries under one head. Then I would say to deaden or cut down when the sap flows freest is the best time to insure destruction to the whole vital force of the tree, and consequently cause the most rapid decay and decomposition of the vegetable properties of it. And if I were permitted to say when this is the case I should suggest the full moon in August as the best time in the whole year to accomplish the desired object.

As to the height that small timber should be cut from the ground, that depends entirely upon the purpose for which the ground is intended, but for tilling it is always best to have them low enough to let wagons and sleds pass over them in safety.

And lastly with regard to the treatment of different kinds of timber. The difference does not consist in the time but in the manner of treatment. The chestnut, ash and hickory will soon die by belting round; but poplar and all timbers that have what we call white or sap wood on the outside must be cut through this white or sap wood in order to insure a speedy death. Then there is the beech, wild cucumber and buckeye, with all such timbers as have no change of wood. These are the hardest timbers that we have to kill. They must be peeled from four or five feet high to the ground and then belted pretty well, and then they will be the slowest trees on your ground in dying. Now as to the best timber to grow for building and so on, I will leave that for some one to tell who has been in the prairie country longer than I have. Before closing this I wish to ask a favor through your valuable

paper: that is, information with regard to the best kind of paint to put on sheep when sheared in order to insure a mark that will last at least until the fall of the year.

Yours fraternally, O. B.

For the Valley Farmer.

### Franklin County Agricultural Society

The second Annual Fair of the Franklin County Agricultural Society will be held at Union, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 12th, 13th and 14th days of October 1854.

The exhibition of the following articles and stock is solicited, and premiums on them will be awarded as follows.

#### FIRST DAY.

Best specimen of Ornamental Needle Work \$5; 20 yards Woolen Carpeting 5; 20 yards Rag Carpeting 5; 10 yards Jeans 2 50; 10 yards Flannel 2 50; 10 yards Linsey 2 50; pair of Blankets 5; Woolen Coverlid 5; Quilt 5; pair of Yarn Stockings 1; Yarn Socks 1; pair of Yarn Socks knit by a girl under ten years 1; Shirt made by a girl under 12 years 1; Pair of Kip Boots 2; pair of Calf Boots 2; five pounds Butter 2; Loaf of Light Bread 1; Bottle of Wine 3; Boiled Ham 1; bushel Green Apples 2; half bushel of Pears 1.

#### SECOND DAY.

Best two horse Wagon \$5; Shovel Plow 2; two horse Turning Plow 2; Subsoil Plow 2 50; Large Harrow 2; Model of a Farming Gate 2; Rifle Gun 2; Saddle, Bridle and Martingale 4; set of double Harness for carriage 5; set of double Harness for wagon 5; Acre of Corn 5; acre of Irish Potatoes 3; acre of Oats 5; saddle Horse, or Mare 5; span of work Horses 5; Milch Cow 5; Sucking Calf 2; yoke of Oxen 6; 10 lbs. sample manufactured Tobacco 2.

#### THIRD DAY.

Best Stallion, five years old and over \$10; Stallion from three to five years, according to age 5; Stallion two years old 5; yearling Horse Colt 5; sucking Colt 5; best and finest Mare 5; two year old Filly 2; yearling Filly 2; Bull three years old and over 5; Bull two years old and over 2 50; yearling Bull 2; Beef Steer 5; Jack three years old and over 10; Jennett three years old and over 5; sucking Mule Colt

2 50; Mule three years old and over 5; Boar 2 50; Sow; 2 50; Ram 2; Ewe 2; largest Hog, premium offered by H. Cheatham Esq., worth 3 50.

Competitors for premiums must be members of the Society. Persons can become members by application to the Secretary and paying the initiation fee.

All articles offered for premiums must be owned by those offering them or members of their families and products of the soil, and manufactured articles must be produced and manufactured in the county.

Competitors for premiums on crops must have the ground and products measured by two disinterested members of the Society and the facts certified by them in writing.

HENRY CHEATHAM, Pres't.

E. B. JEFFRESS, Sec.

Franklin county, Mo., May 1, 1854.

### Bloody Murrain and Snake Bites.

For the Valley Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—Seeing in the Valley Farmer receipts for different things, I will send you two and you may put them in if you see proper.

1st. For Bloody Murrain in cattle, take hogs lard one pint; if case bad a tea cupful of the spirits of turpentine; if not bad, half will do. Put them in a bottle and shake them well. Give as a drench and repeat the lard only, every two hours until you have given half a gallon; keep the animal from water, except salt and water, let them drink that if they will, if not, drench them with it, say half a gallon at a time. It will operate on the bowels.

2d. Recipe for snake bite for animals. Take hog's lard one pint. Give as a drench. Warm it till it will run free first; and also grease the place bitten well with lard; if no relief, repeat the dose in twenty minutes.

I have tried the above recipes with good success.

READER IN OSAGE.

For the Valley Farmer.

### Seed Corn.

Farmers should always select their seed corn through the winter. It is important for several reasons. If we want a strong stock we must plant a good grain; a small

grain will shoot forth a small stock, and as a matter of course a large one will produce a strong one and give it more nourishment when it has but the one root attached to the grain,—it is ready when planting time comes, and saves us the trouble of hastily shelling it which generally amounts to neglect. Large, deep, solid grains are my choice—refuse one half of the little end of the ear.

We have all heard it said that cows sometimes lose their quid; if so, is it attributable to accident, or other causes? What are the symptoms, and what is the *modus operandi* for the restoration of it? Being interested I make this inquiry.

Yours, &c.,

IGNORANUS.

### Cutting Timber.

If oak, hickory or chesnut timber be felled in the eighth month, (August) in the second running of the sap, and barked, quite a large tree will season perfectly, and even twigs will remain sound for years; whereas, that cut in winter, and remaining until the next fall, (as thick as one's wrist,) will be completely sap-rotten, and will be almost useless for any purpose. The body of the oak split into rails, will not last more than 10 or 12 years. Chesnut will last longer, but no comparison to that cut in the 8th month. Hickory cut in the eighth month is not subject to be worm-eaten, and will last a long time for fencing.

When I commenced farming in 1802, it was the practice to cut timber for post-fencing in the winter. White-oak posts and black-oak rails, cut at that time, I found would not last more than 10 or 12 years. In the year 1808, I commenced cutting fence timber in the eighth month. Many of the oak rails cut that year are yet sound, as well as these formed of chesnut. If the bark is not taken off this month, however, it will peel off itself the second or third year, and the sap perfectly sound. The tops of the trees are also more valuable for fuel than when cut in the winter or spring.

I advise young farmers to try the experiment for themselves, and if post-fence will not last twice as long, I forfeit my experience as worthless.—*A. J. Herald.*

Correspondence of the Valley Farmer.

### Bond County Exhibition.

GREENVILLE, Bond Co., Ills.

*My Dear Sir:*—Inclosed I send you a copy of the notice of the Agricultural exhibition, Fair and plowing match for this county, to be held Sept. 28.

This is but a small beginning, yet we hope to feel authorized before publishing our programme to extend our list of premiums. The lively interest which is taken by our farmers and all other citizens throughout the county in this movement, is very encouraging; and to my mind it is likewise a very satisfactory demonstration that a little energy and perseverance in the good cause will be rewarded with success in every agricultural neighborhood in the rich and fertile West.

You can judge better than others in this matter, but it has occurred to me that the publication of our notice and list of premiums, &c., might have some good influence as an example to others, who like us, are just beginning, and perhaps have a better effect than a more imposing example from older and more richly endowed Societies.

Very respectfully, your friend,

WILLIAM S. WANT.

### The Bond County Exhibition, Fair, and Plowing Match

Will be held in Greenville, on Tuesday, September 28, 1854, under the direction of the executive committee.

The following premiums will be paid for animals or articles exhibited, the same being, in the opinion of the judges, of a superior quality.

For the best stallion \$5; for the second best stallion 2; for the best Gelding 3 to 6 years old 5; for the second best Gelding 2; for the Brood mare 5, 2d best do, 2; best yearling Colt 2; best Mule 2; best pair of working Oxen 5, 2c best do, 2; best bull 5, 2d best do, 2; best milk Cow 5, 2d best do, 2; best two year old Steer 2, best yearling 2; best boar 2; best sow 2; best fat Hog 2; best Ram 2.

For the best butter not less than 25 lbs. 2; best Cheese 2; best Apples 2; best show of Potatoes, Beets and Turnips 2; Best Plow 3; best two horse Wagon 3; best Harrow 2.

Specimens of domestic manufacture of every description will be received and exhibited and premiums given or a Diploma where mer-

ited by the workmanship or ingenuity displayed.

Plowing Match will be given for two horse teams.

Members of the Executive Committee have been appointed to take subscriptions of members.

General Regulations for the Order of the Day will be published at least three weeks before the day of Exhibition, when the committee confidently hope to extend their list of premiums.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON, *President*

J. P. SHIELDS, *Secretary*.

For the Valley Farmer.

### The Curculio.

KNOX COUNTY, Mo., April 28, 1854.

MR. ABBOTT:—Seeing in some older numbers of your Farmer a wish expressed to learn a method of getting rid of the curculio, I will endeavor to give you some hints that may be something new and do some good. The writer is a German and has been here seven years. You will therefore excuse the style of writing and spelling, as all I know about it I have just picked up by reading books and newspapers, without the aid of grammar or dictionary. I was brought up a gardener and in the largest establishments of Germany, Belgium and France. I have been farming here and find in the Valley Farmer a good many cases that fit us all here and me in particular. I have just started a Nursery, and am glad to learn through the Farmer that the people are more and more getting their eyes open, particularly in the branch of orcharding. You may publish the communication below if you think fit. There are a good many things that I might write about, and I will if possible do so, if this finds favor.

PETER FREDERICK.

MR. EDITOR:—I call your attention to vol. 5, No. 3, and vol. 4, No. 11, to some communications about the curculio. In the last instance the gentleman took the sod several inches deep out and removed them, that was the reason why he raised plums that year, because he removed with the sod the larvæ of the curculio. In the first instance spading the ground a foot deep under the green gage plum, put the larvæ so deep in the ground that they could not come



up. The *drugs* put on top or to the root, do no good. The best way to explain the matter will be a recital of the method by which in some parts of Germany the people have got and are getting clear of the worm that spoils the best sweet cherries.

This worm comes from an egg laid by a moth in the blossoms of the cherries, grows there until the cherry gets ripe, then it is ripe for the larvæ state. It springs down the tree and digs itself in the soil and remains there until next season when it comes out a moth. Through the exertions of individuals and Horticultural Societies, whole townships have joined to exterminate the moth. They either remove the upper soil a great distance from the cherry tree or spade the upper soil around the tree 14 to 18 inches under. They see that no wild bush which the moth also effects is near, if so they destroy it. This is destroying the root of the evil,

I have not noticed whether the curculio affects any wild bush, if so I would recommend destroying all near your orchard.—Spade your ground 14 inches deep under the trees and if any curculio should make its appearance apply raw cotton to the trunk of the tree which will catch them and ants and other insects that injure the fruit. Picking up the wind falls and destroying them immediately will be of service.

In the opinion of the writer these directions followed will be worth all the drugs in the world to keep off the curculio.

Respectfully yours,

P. F.

For the Valley Farmer.

#### Destruction of Timber.

MACON Co. Mo., April 28, 1854.

MR. EDITOR,—In looking over your highly esteemed pages, I see in the April No. a piece calling for information on the subject of cutting down, deadning and destroying small timber. Having had twenty-five years experience in the brush of north Missouri, I have learned some things. I make no pretensions to smartness, but what little I do know I know as well as any one, having obtained it by the hardest; and

having considerable sympathy for men in the brush, and being satisfied that we should live for ourselves and others, I take pleasure in giving what little information I can on that as all other subjects. To destroy small timber and prevent its sprouting, cut down or deaden in the spring just as the buds begin to burst open, leaving your stumps from eight to twelve inches high. When the bush is cut off stick your axe in the stump and split it so as to admit the water when it rains to go down into the stump. Large timber that you wish to use for building or fencing, cut when the sap is up and the bark taken off I believe will last longer than any other time, but if the bark is left on will rot sooner than if cut at any other time of year. I once tried an experiment by going into a pin oak grove on the first day of May. I struck my axe into one of the saplings and numbered it 1; the second day I repeated the project and numbered it 2, and so on the month out numbering every day. I found that number 12 died out root and branch, and by referring to the almanac, I found that the moon had just entered her last quarter—the sign in the feet. Whether that would hold good all the time I am not able to say, I have not tried it since.

If any one knows a preventive or a cure for the stiff complaint among brood mares I should like very much to hear from them on that subject. You have but few subscribers in this county, but we are doing what we can by way of recommending your valuable work to others, and I think the time is coming when Macon will do better. God speed the cause, and may yours and the Farmer's become a happy lot. Yours fraternally,

P. S.—I do not pretend to say that my plan of deadning or cutting down will always prevent sprouting, but it certainly is the best time. Tell my brother bushwhackers to try the experiment. I. G.

☞ The Postage on the Valley Farmer is now only six cents a year to any part of the United States.

### Boone County Agricultural Society.

At the meeting of the boone county Agricultural Society held on the 8th inst., The following resolutions were adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That the Board of Directors be requested to adopt the following as a By-Law of the Society:

Sec. 20.—No member of Board of Directors, President or Vice President, or other persons, shall be permitted to go into the ring during the exhibition of any article or animal at the differe at Fairs, but the selected Judges of each thing to be exhibited, and the Marshal and his aids shall have the possession of the ring during the exhibition.

2. That the President and Directors of the Society be required to cause to be erected, a stand, for the accommodation of the President, the Board of Directors, and invited guests, on the Fair ground, outside of the show-ring, and that the President draw on the Treasurer of the Society for the cost of the same.

3. That the President and Directors be required; if they deem it advisable, to cause to be laid off a track, at least twenty feet wide around the Fair ground, not nearer than ten feet to the fence.

### North Western Missouri Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical Association.

This Society held its annual meeting at the Court Room in this city, on Monday the 1st inst. A considerable number were present and a good and healthy interest was manifested. Dr. Beaumont, was again unanimously elected President. J. W. Vineyard Vice President, H. Mil's Moore, Esq. Secretary, and Jas. W. Steele Treasurer. The following are the names of the Directors for the ensuing year, Major Jesse Morin, Abner Dean, Dr. J. M. Moore, J. F. Forbis, Wm. L. Irvine, Joseph Nower, Green K. White, Dr. G. W. Bayliss, Lewis Pence, A Risk, John C. Pepper and Thos. F. Stone. The Society then passed a resolution to hold the next annual Fair in this city, commencing on Wednesday, the 4th day of October next, and continuing four days.—*Weston Reporter*.

The Bourbon Agricultural Society—the oldest one in the West, held at the site of the greatest stock auction in the world—Paris—at a late meeting passed a resolution appropriating \$10,000 to be ex-

pended in the erection of an amphitheatre, and other improvements on their grounds.

The Ky., Agricultural and Mechanical Associations have commenced improvements on their grounds, the erection of an extensive amphitheatre, and other improvements, which, it is thought will cost about \$12,000 or \$15,000.

### Breaking Horses.

MS. EDITOR:—I notice in your valuable paper, some remarks on "breaking horses," from the Patent Office Report. In this operation, Madam Glass' receipt for cooking a sturgeon, will apply, viz: "First catch the sturgeon." In order to break a colt well, first get a colt of good blood; and then he will need very little breaking. A colt of good blood is always a colt of good courage, and the best way of ascertaining a good blooded colt, is to try his courage. See if anything will frighten him—see if he delights in loud noises, such as the sound of a drum—the noise of a bridge—the sound of a cannon, &c.

A good colt will generally precede his dam in traveling. If he lags behind—if he is easily frightened at sights, or sounds—get rid of him at once. He will not be worth raising. If you have a colt from a good stock, treat him with kindness, never irritate him. Feed him with salt, crusts of bread, pieces of carrots, &c., from the hand. Feed him well, give him a warm stable, and good bed in winter. Halter him and lead him about when he is a year old. Bridle him at two years, and occasionally put a saddle of his back, and always keep him in hand, and under kind control. Keep up this practice till three years old—you may then put a harness on him and lead him around in it. Take care that he never gets a chance to break from you or run away. In the spring, summer and fall give him a good pasture to exercise in, where he can run and consolidate his limbs. At four, you may harness him in a sled, and afterward in a light wagon—always remain by his head. Do not blind him—let him see everything that is going on around him. A harrow is a good thing to tame him down.

If you want him to work with another horse, you may now harness him with a

horse that is perfectly gentle, and kind, and sure in all situations.

At five years old he will be fit to put to any light work in saddle and harness.—But then he should not be overloaded or strained at this or any other age. At eight years old the horse is mature. His bones, muscles and cords are fully developed and consolidated.—N. C. BETTON, in *Granite Farmer*.

### Planting Corn.

The common way is to plant the seed in hills, according to the old rhyme:

One for the blackbird, and one for the crow,  
And two for the rot, and four for to grow.

Or varied:

One for the blackbird, and one for the crow,  
One for the cut-worm, and three left to grow.

We are not willing to be quite so liberal to the feathered race; indeed we make no scruples to exclude them entirely by a coating of tar. Half a pint of tar will do for an acre, by pouring hot water upon the seed to warm the outside of the grains pouring it off again in a few seconds and then applying the tar, and stirring the whole thoroughly. This gives the grains a thick, delicate varnish of tar. Then mix in air-slacked lime, and stir it, and the seed will be well coated with tar and lime, and no feathered rogue will touch it.

### Best Thrift.

In looking into the position and treatment of boys upon farms, as we have done lately, our notion has more and more strengthened that it is as easy as it is certainly most expedient, to give every boy a chance of earning a little money for himself. This can be done by allowing him to set apart a corner of a garden or pay rent for a single field; but we find, in the *American Agriculturist*, the following suggestion of another way to make the laboring lad proud of his home and interested in his occupation. It is from Report of a "Farmers' Club:"

"J. Reynolds said he knew a lad who five years ago began to keep poultry. He bought five or six hens, raised chickens, and sold chickens and eggs. He fed largely upon fresh fish. He now has a flock of some fifty hens, has purchased a cow, repaired his little barn, clothed himself, assisted his mother more or less, and

is now, from the sale of his milk and the produce of his poultry, quite a thriving young man, accumulating a very pretty capital."

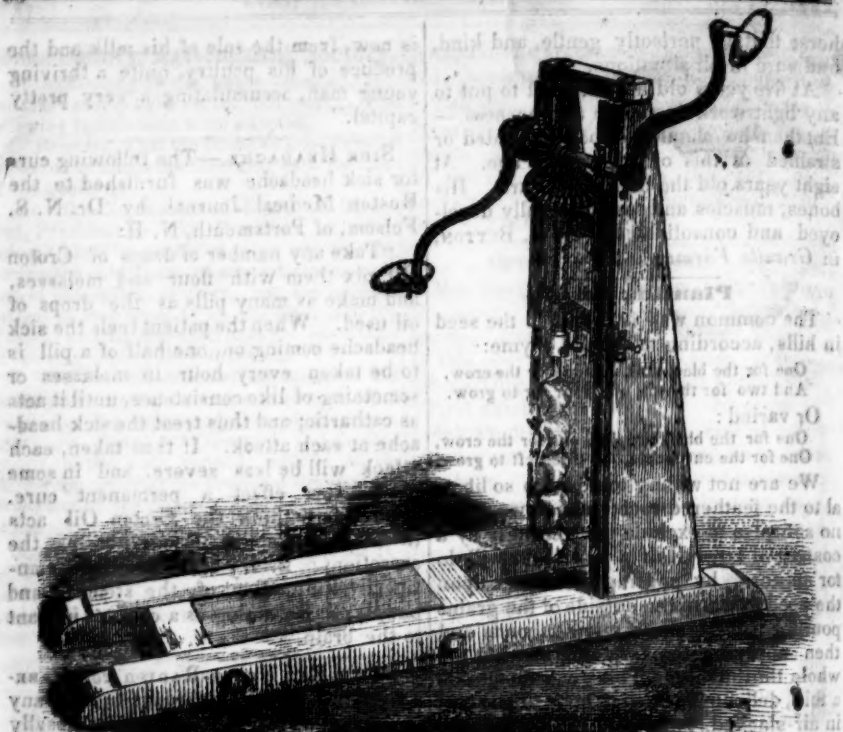
**SICK HEADACHE.**—The following cure for sick headache was furnished to the Boston Medical Journal, by Dr. N. S. Folsom, of Portsmouth, N. H:

"Take any number of drops of Croton Oil mix them with flour and molasses, and make as many pills as the drops of oil used. When the patient feels the sick headache coming on, one half of a pill is to be taken every hour in molasses or something of like consistence, until it acts as cathartic; and thus treat the sick headache at each attack. If thus taken, each attack will be less severe, and in some cases a few effect a permanent cure. He seems to think the Croton Oil acts in three ways:—1. By increasing the secretions. 2. By counteracting the antiperistaltic action of the stomach and bowels. 3. By acting as a counter irritant to the brain."

**DON'T EAT HORSE-RADISH TOO FREELY.**—It is almost hazardous to say any thing against a condiment so universally used and relished as this, but a word of caution is needed. Horse radish is highly stimulating and exciting to the stomach, and this effect is almost always followed by lassitude and weakness. We have met with several cases, where persons have ignorantly used this root so freely as to be scarcely able to labor at all.

Where it is needed as a medicine, a small quantity of horse radish is doubtless beneficial. But we are quite sure, from considerable observation of its effects upon ourselves and others, that any person using a full spoonfull or more, at a meal, will suffer in consequence, although the cause of this suffering may not be perceived, since it produces a stimulating effect for the first hour or two after eating it.—*Am. Agriculturist*.

**THE WESTERN ENANGELIST;** a religious monthly of 16 pages is published at Greenville, Ill., by PETER LONG, Editor and Proprietor; to whom all letters should be addressed, *post paid*. Terms of the *Evangelist*, fifty cents a year.



### IMPROVED BORING MACHINE.

FOR HOUSE, CAR, AND BRIDGE FRAMING.

This machine is simple in construction, well made, light and portable, and not liable to get out of repair; the demand for which has rapidly increased within the last year, thereby favoring its utility. It is readily attached to a timber joist, when the workman sits across it, operating the auger by turning one of the cranks with each hand, doing four times the amount of work with much more ease and precision than with the common auger, avoiding entirely that wrenching and laborious operation. By shipping the gear, and the same motion of the cranks, the auger is drawn out quickly, leaving the hole clear of chips.

One set of Snell & Brothers' Celebrated Augers are furnished with machine, consisting of one inch, one and a half inches, and two inches, equal to eighteen quarters. Price, complete, for No. 1, \$13.00; No. 2, extra high for railroad bridge work, \$13.50. For sale by Wm. M. Plant & Co., Main Street St. Louis.

**PLANTING HEDGES.**—In answer to inquiries, the *Ohio Cultivator* states that "in this climate, osage orange plants do not start to grow before the 5th to 10th of May, so as to render it important that they should be set before that time; but the ground should be prepared earlier, else it is liable to become hard from dry weather. The seed should be sown about corn planting time, or any time in May, when most convenient. We have had it do well, sown as late as the first week in June. The only danger is from drouth, and watering must be resorted to whenever this occurs shortly after sowing."



(Original.)

**Culture of the Grape—No. 6.****ARBORS.**

Arbors for the city should be carried up against a house, to the third story where shade is required. They do best when made with a large elliptical sweep, commencing at eight or ten feet from the pavement, and stretching over in one sweep to the third or fourth story window. In such arbors, the shoots on the highest parts do not shade the lower ones,—as is frequently the case in vines trained against an upright trellis, which has no circular top to carry off the budding shoots. And upright trellis, even suppose you keep the shoots closely tied in, is likely to cause the dropping of one leaf on to another, and generally only a few fine bunches near the upper part; and even then the leading shoots have either to be cut or be permitted to overhang all the fruit and branches. Under no circumstances ought the leading shoots to be cut away or stopped, as it will derange the action of the plant and vitiate the sap.

Arbors which are flat, or nearly so on the top answer very well; but such do not ripen very good fruit on the perpendicular or lower part. They should be made strong enough to bear a man's weight when pruning or working among them. The strips should be made of the best materials, free from knots, or they may break suddenly, and the person working on them might break his neck; such strips of wood ought not to be more than a foot apart, this will make it so much the stronger, and more convenient to tie the young shoots into it in the spring. Vines growing against a wall should be trained to a frame six inches away from the wall. The fruit will not come to much in this climate, the berries will be thin and meagre, and will be smothered with spider's webs and dust, all the dead leaves and filth will lodge on them—they will do no good, and will give you ten times as much trouble as to raise them on an arbor or trellis. Brick walls may answer for vines very well in England, where the sun is not otherwise strong enough to produce

the necessary heat, to stimulate the fruit to perfection. English growers also say that they nail the plant close to the wall to prevent the cold air from getting behind them; but we have no such thing as this cold air in this latitude; after the summer once sets in with the Thermometer varying from 68 to 98 or 100 degrees Fahrenheit, there is little danger of their being chilled. Where they are trained so close to the wall or otherwise crowded, the thrips will smother them in this latitude; you will find no thrips where the vine has a free circulation of air about its shoots and branches. Wires are conductors of electricity, and as such are very apt to attract the lightning. When a vine is struck by the electric fluid the leaves droop suddenly; when the sun reaches them in the morning the bark separates readily from the wood, and has a very fishy, putrid swell. I have seen vines trained on wires, in doors and out, struck by lightning in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, but never saw any trained on wood affected by it. Besides it takes about ten times as long to prune vines on wires, as on wood; the tendrils of the vine get fastened round the wires, and you have to spoil the edge of your knife to get them loose. If twine of the size of pack thread be used to tie the vines with on wood frames, when pruned in winter, and some weak twine or matting be used to tie them with in summer, they will readily break away from the frame work with a jerk; if you wish to avoid the trouble of cutting each one of the bandages, and thereby save time and labor, I always prefer to have them completely detached at the time of winter pruning, so that I can rearrange them if necessary with new twine. When you have them on wires, you cannot jerk them off without danger of misplacing the wires, besides continually spoiling the edge of your knife. If you get the right kind of a pruning knife, made of the right material, and put on a good edge in the morning previous to beginning a day's work, you may work the entire day with it on wooden frames with very little sharpening, but on wire frames you will so fre-

quently strike the edge of your knife against the wires that it will take you half of your time to keep an edge on it by constant setting, and rubbing on your hone. I prefer those knives which have straight blades and long handles; the hooked blades are apt to fracture the remaining part of the shoot you are cutting, and do not slip through and make such a clean cut as the straight blade. If the handle of your knife be too short, you will be very apt to shave off, and cut into the end of the thumb when pruning.

For Vineyards in the country the rows should be from six to eight feet apart; and the trellis about as high as can be conveniently reached by a person standing on the ground; the posts should be of cedar if possible, and should be put in firm and strong; the tops of the posts should be left standing some four or five feet above the cross rails, that is some ten feet or more above the ground, so that you can with the aid of a ladder, tie up your leading shoots to those posts, and thus prevent the too redundant foliage from smothering your fruit, and at the same time avoid the injurious effects of stopping or cutting your leaders and depriving the plant of its foliage, which will be absolutely necessary to enable the plant, through the agency of its leaves, to secrete various substances contained in the seeds; and also to enable it to secrete the saccharine matter essential to the ripening of the fruit. If the plant has not sufficient healthy foliage it cannot mature the seeds and fruit. And although you may to some extent judge by measuring the body of the vine near the ground how much fruit the plant is able to mature, yet there must be sufficient foliage to enable the plant to perform the functions which nature intended they should do, or you may fall short in your calculations. Many experienced vine growers under glass, say that vines when forced having the main body of their roots outside of the hot house, perform all these functions by the aid of their leaves alone, subsisting on the atmosphere in the house before the roots begin to grow at all. What a ridiculous absurdity it must

be to remove the leaves to allow the fruit to ripen, when it is by the agency of the leaves mainly that the fruit is ripened; if the foliage be too much crowded at any time during the summer, you have planted your vines too close together, or you did not thin them out sufficiently when they were pruned in the winter season.

### American Pomological Society.

The Fifth Session of this National Association, will be held at Horticultural Hall in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, commencing on Wednesday, the thirteenth day of September next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

It is intended to make this assemblage one of the most interesting that has ever been held in this country on the subject of Pomology. All Horticultural, Agricultural, and other kindred Associations, of North America, are therefore requested to send such number of Delegates to this Convention, as they may deem expedient.

Pomologists, Nurserymen, and others, interested in the cultivation of good Fruit, are also invited to attend the coming session.

Among the objects of this Society, are the following:—

To ascertain, from practical experience, the relative value of varieties in different parts of our widely extended country. To hear the Reports of the various State Fruit Committees, and from a comparison of results, to learn what Fruits are adapted to general cultivation; what varieties are suitable for particular localities; what new varieties give promise of being worthy of dissemination; and especially what varieties are generally inferior or worthless, in all parts of the Union.

In order to facilitate these objects, and to collect and diffuse a knowledge of researches and discoveries in the science of Pomology, Members and Delegates are requested to contribute specimens of the Fruits of their respective districts; also papers descriptive of their art of cultivation; of diseases and insects injurious to vegetation; of remedies for the same, and whatever may add to the interest and utility of the Association.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society has generously offered to provide accommodations for the Society, and also to publish its proceedings free of expense.

All packages of Fruit intended for exhibition, may therefore be addressed as follows:—"For the American Pomological Society, Horticultural Hall, School Street, Boston Mass.," where a committee will be in attendance to take charge of the same.

All Societies to be represented, will please forward Certificates of their several Delegations, to the President of the American Pomological Society, at Boston.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, PRESIDENT.  
H. W. S. CLEVELAND SECRETARY.  
Boston, Mass., April 1st, 1854.

THE VALEDICTORY ADDRESS OF LEWIS G. MORRIS, Esq., late President of the New York Agricultural Society, for which we are indebted to the ever kind attention of B. P. Johnson, contains some practical ideas, in Mr. M.'s straightforward way, from which we draw the following extracts:

FARMER'S SONS.—"It was an old, common saying in a family, if one of the boys was not quite as bright and intelligent as the others, 'We must make a farmer of him, as that is all he is good for.' That was in the days when BOOK-FARMING was hooted at. It was then thought that mental labor was useless; all that was required was to follow the old beaten track, and toil with the hands and body.

"I am happy to say that these views have passed away, and that the cultivation of the soil can accompany with it as pleasing and varied a study as any occupation in the world, and there is no end to the information to be gained. As to myself, gentlemen, I have just learned enough of the profession to find out, that I know comparatively nothing.

"How often is it that a farmer embarks one of (as he thinks) his smartest sons in trade or speculation; it becomes necessary at the outset, or at some future period, to lend him his name on paper, or to encumber the farm; the result of which frequently turns out in being obliged to sell the landed estate, and the whole family is brought to want by the proud or lazy spirit of this one son."

SAVING SEEDS.—"I would recommend more attention being paid to the quality of all seeds sown and planted by our farmers. I mean that they should be raised expressly for seed, by persons who might make that kind of farming their principal object, and the ordinary farmers resort to them to procure the seeds.

"The difference in value of a crop produced by seed properly selected, well matured and kept free from other varieties,

would, in most cases, doubly repay the additional cost of procuring good seed, instead of sowing the kind they have on hand of their own growing. We have now many farmers in our State who are turning their attention that way, and if our large farmers will give them proper encouragement the good results will be reciprocal, and the average yield in our State greatly increased."

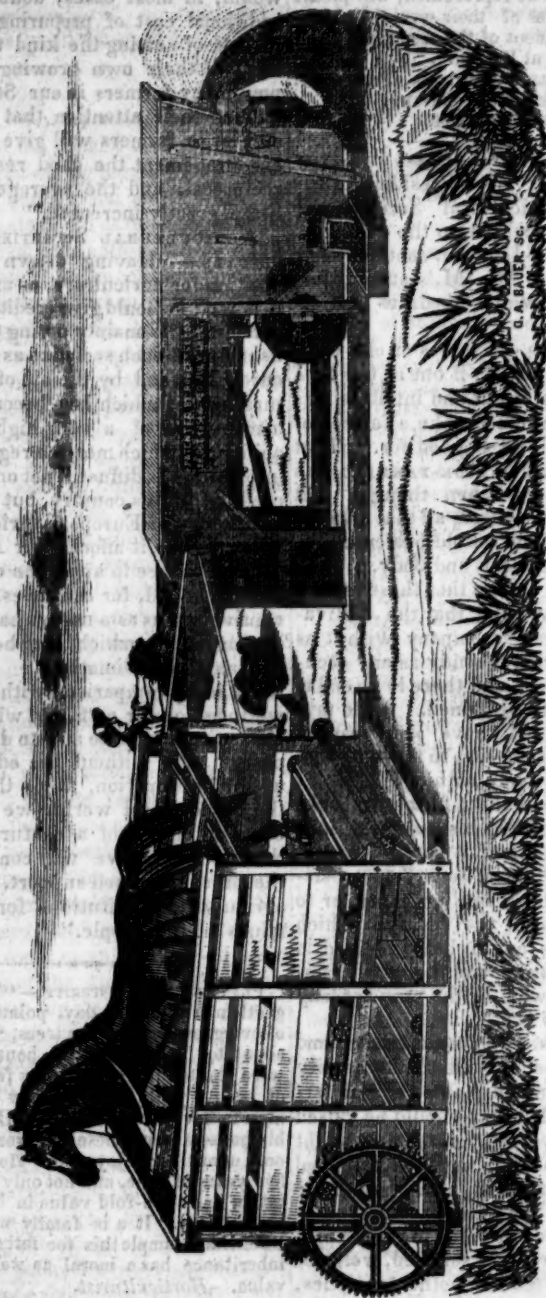
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND PERIODICALS.—"Having drawn a favorable position for agriculture, as an occupation, it is well I should give credit where credit is due. Is mainly owing to the establishment of such societies as this, all over our Union, and by the aid of the agricultural press, which has become very numerous and of a very high order as to ability, by which means a regular fund of information is diffused, not only of the proceedings of this country, but the accounts and doings of European agriculturists, by which means it affords our American aptitude a chance to apply the experience of the old world, for centuries, and our inventive genius as a nation has led to many improvements which are better adapted to our soil and climate.

"It is by comparison with others' that we judge of our own, and without these society meetings to be able to draw the comparison, and without the editors to give us the information, as to the doings of the agricultural world, we would have been an eighth of a century behind. I therefore hope we will continue to give the press increased support, and keep our agricultural institutions foremost in the minds of the people."

PLANTING FOR POSTERITY.—"There," said a gentleman to us one day, pointing to a group of evergreens and other trees, "my brother is about to build himself a house; those trees were planted for him by my father upwards of twenty years ago." How fortunate this man to have such a father. Here he builds his house among these fine trees and enters at once upon their enjoyment. He gains twenty-five years of time, and not only that, the plantation has a ten-fold value in its history and associations. It is a family monument. A beautiful example this for fatters. Such an inheritance has a moral as well as material value.—*Horticulturist*.

## Cox & Roberts' Patent Thresher and Cleaner,

WITH TWO HORSE ENDLESS CHAIN POWER.



We insert on this and the following pages, engravings of "Cox & Roberts' Patent Thresher and Cleaner," as worked by Endless Chain Power and by Lever power. These Machines are made and sold by Messrs. KINGSLANDS & FERGUSON, proprietors of the Phoenix Foundry, in this city, and also by the inventors and patentees, Messrs. COX & ROBERTS, in Belleville, Illinois. They thresh and clean the grain ready for market, and are recommended to the community as possessing the combined qualities of simplicity,

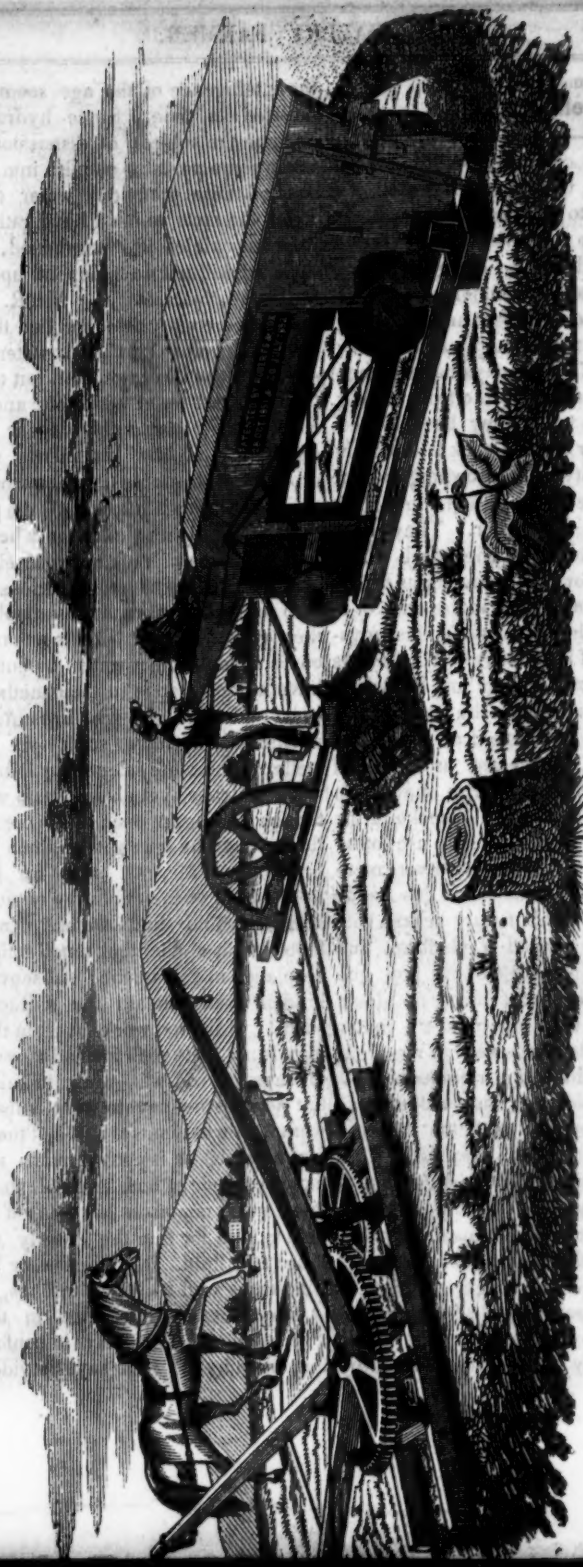
Cox & Roberts' Patent Thresher and Cleaner,



and clean the grain ready for market, and are recommended to the community as possessing the combined qualities of simplicity,

# Cox & Roberts' Patent Thresher and Cleaner,

WITH FOUR HORSE LEVER POWER.



durability, and cheapness. They have been thoroughly tested for some years past, several hundred having been sold by the inventors at their manufactory in Belleville. The Lever power is represented as an improvement on any now in use, being the most portable and simple one manufactured. The endless chain power is very durable—wrought iron links being used instead of cast iron; consequently they are not liable to break or wear out. Price of Thresher and Cleaner, with four horse lever power, \$245 00; do. with two horse endless chain power, \$235 00; do. with one horse endless chain power, \$195 00.

For the Valley Farmer.

**Well Digging.**

MR. EDITOR:—There are some persons of such a happy conformation of mind that they can in an instant, as it were, step from a premise to a conclusion, and discover at a glance the fitness or unfitness of an argument adduced for or against a subject under discussion. Other persons less fortunate in this endowment have to be lugged on step by step through all the intricate windings of a metaphysical argument before they can discover the truth clearly. This latter class when they become wedded to an idea or opinion stick to it with the death like tenacity of a drowning man to whatever may be in his reach, though it can afford him no succor. They have more respect for long cherished errors than they have for the blazing lights of new truth. Such I am afraid, in the case of J. W. Wilkerson, the advocate of this mysterious system of Hydrology! He demurs to the explanation given by me, by which the divining rod is held by the water conjuror, as not being his method at least, and the mode which I suggested as a test of the fact is something similar to one which he uses on such occasions. I spoke of the *modus operandi* generally made use of by the water witches, without, however, mentioning the difference between his mode and theirs. Upon this failure he has with some plausibility erected a platform, and from his battery is firing off his pop gun artillery, with great amusement no doubt to himself, but at the same time no injury to me, nor any disparagement to the arguments which I adduced in refutation to his system of hydrology. And moreover, I still stick to my original text, that when I shall find the rod to work, arranging it in the hands as I have already suggested, I will take the pains to enquire into the matter and try to reach out its cause. Is Mr. J. W. W. sure the rod works to water? Why not to rock? He ought to have to have settled this point well in his mind before he should have ventured on the public arena in advocacy of a system which by

the intelligence of the age seems to have outlived its time. Since hydrology has become the subject of discussion, I have taken some pains to enquire into the success of these pretended water diviners. From the facts which I have gathered, my previous opinion is strengthened, and that their art will not do to depend upon if water be the object sought. Mr. R. Elkins, of Lawrence county, Mo. has had the eighth well sunk before he found water. These several places were pointed out to him by four different water conjurers; and he sunk all of them considerably deeper than the depth they told him his efforts would be crowned with success, and he would obtain an unfailling vein in each of the places he dug. In the eighth well he sunk he got water in abundance. To hit once in eight times is not very good guessing; at least by those who pretend to have an invariable rule for their guide! But it is quite as correct as I could expect from a water conjuror, for I have no confidence in their method whatever. Mr. J. Ogle, who lives in the same neighborhood, has sunk six different wells, which were selected by four different water witches, yet obtained no water, although he dug in each well considerably deeper than he was told by them he would find water. Mr. O. says he generally struck rock at the depth the conjurors told him he would find water, From these facts does it appear that much reliance can be placed in this method of discovering the hidden veins beneath the surface of the earth? If the rod works at all in the hands may it not be to rock instead of water? Mr. O. says the rod will work in his hands, but he does not say to what substance it works, or what causes it. But there is one fact of which he is convinced to the great inconvenience of both himself and family, these water conjurors have as yet been unable to find for him the eagerly and long sought for fluid. But there may be stone witches as well as water witches, and Mr. O. may be one that is gifted in that way. This view of the subject is in conformity to that taken by W. He says Providence has

distributed her gifts. To one she has given this, to another that. While she has been thus bountiful to us, it is a pity that she has not at the same time given us some rules by which we could determine whether the endowment is water, stone, mineral or a dry bottom to a well; without putting us to much expense and labor. Such gifts, if gifts they be, are rather annoying than useful. Other facts have fallen under my observation, one of which I will here mention. Some years ago an old gentleman over whose head had passed some seventy winters came to his grandson's on purpose of showing where to dig his well. He took his forked rod his hand and marched over the ground with apparent pride and no little dignity. Finally he hit upon a spot where the rod went nicely to work. By the vibrations of the rod he pronounced the depth to the water to be twenty-five feet English, *French, more!* But the grandson, like myself was a disbeliever in this water legerdemain. When he got ready to sink his well he selected a place the most convenient for the accommodation of his family, and went to work, paying no respect to the place selected by his grandfather and found water to the depth of seventeen feet. The old gentleman had passed over the same place but his magic wand would not work. But Mr. W. will say perhaps, he did not possess the gift of thus discovering the secret veins beneath the earth's surface! In this I will more cordially agree with him, and I am in hopes that he will take it as no offence when I say I do not believe any other person possesses it, his avowal to the contrary notwithstanding. Although I feel well persuaded in my own mind at present, from observation and from facts which I have adduced, that there is no sure reliance to be placed in this method of finding water; yet I feel confident that I am not so bigoted in my opinion on the subject as to shut both eyes and ears against the convictions of truth. Truth though it come from the humble cottage, is of far more value to me than error from high places and thrones. I

should take a pleasure to be convinced from Mr. W. himself, for I understand he is a man of high attainments. I will inform Mr. W. for his own benefit, if his system of hydrology is a reality and not a hocus-pocus of the imagination, that he has it in his power not only to convince me, but thousands of other persons in Missouri, and elsewhere, which will not only prove an inestimable blessing to community but an emolument to himself, more productive in real gains than the richest placers beyond the Sierra Nevada! He then has it in his power to gladden the hearts of thousands! Why then does he keep this invaluable talent buried up? Why then does he not exhume it and awake it up to activity, and apply it to the general good of community, that fathers, mothers and children may bless him and have his name emblazoned on the temple of fame? He need not fear the jeers and taunts of community if he possesses the finding water under the earth's surface to the extent he professes. His success would soon silence into awe and reverence the most skeptical. I oppose the theory out of no respect to Mr. W., but simply because I do not believe it is one of nature's laws or truths. But Mr. W. sticks to his system of hydrology with a love bordering on to enthusiasm. He sees the gentle inclinations of boughs of trees to the concealed aqueous fluids. A slighter inclination of them as the exposed stream ripples along its serpentine course. Providence has placed these as a sure indication of the treasures concealed beneath and man, only for his disbelief and stupidity, might dig and slake his thirst! The sturdy oak, whose head has been crowned with the snows and frosts of three centuries, and through whose boughs old Boreas has whistled many a chilling blast; where the panther and catamount have sported in the sunshine; it has been the roosting place for the eagle and a security for all varmints of the forest when pursued by the backwoods hunter; yet true to the impulse of nature's laws it inclines its boughs to either the flowing stream or one conceal-

med beneath the earth's surface! A bough cut from this same tree retains its rigidity awhile in the hands of one person, in the hands of another it shows more humility when brought in the vicinity of the stream concealed beneath, and nods and vibrates like a thing of life! Could Moses, Aaron, and the Egyptian magicians break forth from their tombs (where they have been spent up for years) in all the freshness of life, with the incidents of the past vividly impressed upon their minds, and witness the nods and vibrations of an 'hazle switch' asporting in the hands of Mr. W. or any other of our modern water conjurors, how profoundly they would be impressed of the superiority of the modern conjurors over those who lived in their day! No doubt they would make humble acknowledgements of the greater gifts of Providence at the present day and sneak off to their tombs shamefacedly. Wishing you success in the noble cause in which you are engaged I am and still hope to remain your friend. J. J. ROBERTS.

### Tall Corn.

We have "tall corn," in America. The world is beginning to find it out. Every year brings the fact more and more home to the perceptive and digestive faculties of all civilized humanity. Like all great truths it does not gain credit at once. True, everybody sees it here with his own eyes, but not so on the other side of the water. The first accounts of our Western prairies were read by the Buckingham farmer with as much respect as the fish stories of sailor Sinbad. It took even the highest dignitaries of the land a long while to get fairly up to the fact. Even at this day there is an ear of corn at the British Museum which enjoys a very "distinguished consideration" as a curiosity. It divides attention, we do not say equally, but fractionally with the Ninevah bull and the great Kobinoor. It is a perfect marvel to our cousin John Bull; and yet it has but a very simple history, and is not a very extraordinary ear of corn after all. It has reached its present distinction somewhat in this wise:

In the month of January, 1847, at a certain dinner party in London, at which Lord John Russell, Lord Morpeth, many other distinguished men were present, the conversation turned upon the Irish famine, and the remark was made by Lord John, that he rejoiced that

so good a substitute for the native breadstuff has been as Indian corn. Turning to Bates, the American partner in the house of Baring Brothers, his lordship went on to say, "why Bates some of the cobs have twelve or fourteen rows of grain on them." Mr. Bates coolly replied, "Yes, my lord, I have seen from twenty to twenty-four rows on a cob." "This is rank Yankeeism," was the pleasant retort of the premier, and the whole company shouted in approval. The burst of incredulous merriment over, Mr. Bates bought his peace by a wager of a dinner for the company all around that he could produce such an ear. "Done," exclaimed Lord John, and the bet was clinched.

The dinner passed off. Mr. Bates returned home, but not entirely at ease. He had done a strange thing; for the first time in his life he had made an engagement he was not absolutely certain of his ability to fulfil. He had misgivings that he had rashly pledged the honor of his country. It had been long since he had looked upon an American crib; and however patiently he winnowed the Cornucopia of memory, he found that the cobs of his early day had gone glimmering thro' the lapse of time, among the things that were now so far off that he could not count the rows. He was as Plantus would say, "*reductus ad invitae*"—in Yankee parlance, "*hard up*." But fortune favors the brave. It happened that a friend of ours dropped in the next day at the counting house of Barings. Mr. Bates, with brightened face, hailed him, and made known his difficulty. "You are safe," was the response; "if I live to get home you shall have even a bigger ear than you have promised."

Our friend G—— soon returned and straightway wrote to Messrs Rodgers & Reynolds, of Lafayette, Indiana, telling the story, and begging them, for the honor of the country, to come to the rescue, and turn the tables on Lord John, showing what Yankees could do. In the July following Mr. G. received by express from Lafayette a nicely arranged box containing six ears of horse-tooth corn, two of which had twenty-nine rows, two thirty-one and two thirty-two. The box was forthwith addressed to "J. Bates, Esq., care of Messrs. Baring, Bro. & Co., ship, by Black Ball Line, care of the Liverpool House." It reached its destination, and Lord John Russell, first treasury, third son of the late duke of Bedford by the second daughter of George Viscount Torrington and lineal descendant of Lord Wm. Russell, the martyr of liberty, "acknowledged the corn." The dinner was won. Joshua Bates did not perpetrate a "Yankeeism," and the British Museum holds the trophy. *Vive la Republique.*—*N. York Courier.*



# The Valley Farmer.

WOODWARD & ABBOTT, PUBLISHERS.

Office, corner Fourth and Chestnut streets.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Editor.

Editor's office and Printing office, in Old Postoffice Building, north side of Chestnut street, between Third and Fourth streets, entrance on Old Postoffice Alley.

## TERMS.

THE VALLEY FARMER is published on the first of each month, each number containing 48 large octavo pages (including 8 pages devoted to advertisements of matters of interest to farmers,) and is ordered at the following rates:—

Single copy, one year, \$1 00  
Four copies, \$3; seven copies, \$5; fifteen copies, \$10.

Payments, in all cases, must be made in advance. Remittances in gold coins, current bank notes, or postage stamps, may be made by mail at our risk.

AGENTS.—Postmasters and Merchants throughout the country are authorized to act as Agents, and every friend of the enterprise is respectfully requested to aid in extending its circulation.

ADVERTISING.—Advertisements are inserted in the ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT of the Valley Farmer at the following rates:—One insertion of 12 lines, \$1; each additional insertion, 50 cents; 12 lines one year \$6; each additional 12 lines one year, \$4; one page, one insertion, \$7; each additional insertion, 50¢; one page, yearly, \$50; Cards of six lines or less, one year, \$5.

## Our Book Table.

HUGHANAN ON GRAPE CULTURE, and LONGWORTH ON THE STRAWBERRY. Fifth edition, revised.—One volume, 12mo. cloth, 63c. Cincinnati. Moore, Anderson & Co 1854. pp. 142.

We are indebted to the politeness of the Publishers for a copy of this neatly bound, well executed little volume. It first appeared in 1852, and we argue its popularity from the number of editions already called for. In fact, it is the standard work in the United States upon Vineyards, Wine making and Grapes; and it is further enriched by an Essay on the practical cultivation of the Strawberry. Mr. Downing said of the book: "A man may take it and plant a vineyard and raise grapes with success." Every one who grows a grape should have it. The publishers will forward it by mail, free of postage, on receipt of sixty-three cents.—*Farmer's Companion*.

ELLIOTT'S FRUIT BOOK: or the American Fruit Grower's Guide in Orchard and Garden. Being a Compend of the History, Modes of Propagation, Culture, &c., of Fruit Trees and Shrubs, with descriptions of nearly all the varieties of

fruit cultivation in this country; Notes on their adaption to localities and soils, and also a complete list of fruits worthy of cultivation. By F. R. Elliott. New York: C. M. Saxton. Price, \$1 25, sent free of postage.

A handsome book of 500 pages embellished with numerous cuts of apples, peaches, cherries, plums, &c. This book has been looked for for some time past by fruit growers in the West and North-west. The known reputation of the author as a very successful fruit grower and nurseryman, added to the fact that the work was to be to a certain extent western in its character, has caused its advent to be expected with considerable interest; and its appearance fully sustains the expectations of its friends.

Our author, himself a resident of North-eastern Ohio, and thus as it were midway between the great fruit growing regions of the Atlantic sea board, and those of the Mississippi Valley, has drawn assistance and information from experienced and practical men on both sides of him, so as to pay attention to all parts of our diversified climate. Whether in doing this he has not been too general in his remarks, and in attempting to do justice to all he has not failed to make his work practically applicable to any one particular region, is a question of no little moment. We do not think he has failed here, but from the cursory perusal we have given the work, we think it must be a valuable assistant to the fruit growers all over our land. In names and classifications he has adopted the decisions of the National Congress of Fruit Growers, but also gives the local names of fruits as known in different sections.

The author in his preface makes the following remarks: "This work has been commenced and completed more at the suggestion and request of friends than from any feeling of my own abilities, and while I have endeavored to avoid error, I yet feel that numerous corrections will have in subsequent editions to be made; this partly from omission and commission, consequent on ones first work, and partly from the constant state of advancement in pomology.—As it is intended to revise and correct as

soon as the cause demands, I shall consider myself and the cause indebted to the gentlemen who in reviewing it may observe errors, if they will communicate the same to me."

We must acknowledge ourself somewhat disappointed in our expectations of this work as a "Western Fruit Book," and while we admire its general features, we cannot think it supplies the vacancy sought to be filled by the North Western Fruit Growers' Association."

We copy from page 210 the following representation and description of the Kennicott Cherry:

"KENNICOTT."



"Raised by Prof. Kirtland, and named by ourself, after the most enthusiastic horticulturist in the West, J. A. Kennicott. M/D, of Northfield, Ill. Tree, vigorous, hardy, spreading, very productive. Fruit large, oval heart shape, compressed; suture shallow, half round; color, amber yellow, mottled and much overspread with rich bright clear glossy red; flesh, yellowish white, firm, juicy, rich and sweet; pit, below medium size, smooth and regular; stem, short in cavity, with bold surrounding projections. Season, 8th to 16th July. As a market fruit, the time of ripening, size and beauty of this variety will make it popular when known."

We have received a copy of the above work from J. B. Copke & Co., Chicago, and also a copy from C. M. Saxton the publisher, in New York city. Mr. S. has also sent us the following books:

**AMERICAN FLOWER GARDEN DIRECTORY:** containing practical directions for the culture of plants, in the flower-garden, hot-house, green-house, rooms, or parlor windows, for every month in the year. With a description of the plants most desirable in each, the nature of the soil and situation best adapted to their growth, the proper season for transplanting, etc. With instruc-

tions for erecting a hot-house, green-house, and laying out a flower-garden. The whole adapted to either large or small gardens. With instructions for preparing the soil, propagating, planting, pruning, training, and fruiting the Grape Vine, with descriptions of the best sorts for cultivation in the open air. By ROBERT BUIST, nurseryman and seed grower. Sixth edition, with numerous additions. New York: C. M. Saxton. 1854. Price \$1.25, free of postage.

Buist's Flower Garden Directory has been for several years a standard work among florists; and we are not surprised that several editions should be called for in a brief space of time. The book before us is of course handsomely got up, as all books upon flowers should be, and is deserving a place upon the centre table of our lady readers, as well as in the book cases of the other sex.

**MYSTERIES OF BEE-KEEPING EXPLAINED:** being a complete analysis of the whole subject; consisting of the natural history of bees, directions for obtaining the greatest amount of pure surplus honey with the least possible expense, remedies for losses given, and the science of "luck" fully illustrated—the result of more than twenty year's experience in extensive apiaries. By M. Quinby, practical bee-keeper. New York: C. M. Saxton, 1854. Price \$1, sent free of postage.

This is a book of twenty-five chapters, including every thing pertaining to the history, habits, disposition and tastes of the honey-bee; the best modes of treatment, &c., and leaving out of view the author's speculations and reasonings about the sex of the Queen and other members of the hive, which we regard as pure romance, we are very much pleased with it.

**THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER:** a scientific treatise on Agricultural Chemistry, the Geology of Agriculture; on Plants, Animals, Manures and soils, applied to Practical Agriculture. By J. A. NASH, principal of Mount Pleasant Institute, instructor of agriculture in Amherst College, and member of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. New York: C. M. Saxton, 1854. Price, 50 cents.

"Progression," a happy term, and happily it is applied in this instance. This book, the author tells us is the result of an effort to render science available to practical farmers, to young men desirous of qualifying themselves for so useful an employment, and especially to the more advanced classes in our public schools. The work

is divided into six chapters, embracing Agricultural Chemistry; [the hardest first] Geology of Agriculture; Vegetable Physiology; Animals and their products, Manures, and Practical Agriculture. Let every young farmer or farmer's son read it, **THE FARMER'S LAND MEASURER**, or Pocket Companion; showing, at one view, the content of any piece of land, from dimensions taken in yards, with a set of useful agricultural tables. By James Pedder, Editor of the Boston Cultivator. New York: C. M. Saxton, 1854. Price 50 cents.

Any thing of this kind from the pen of James Pedder, must be valuable, and we were not disappointed in finding this little manual replete with useful information, and comprising in a small compass the solution of many questions which are daily asked on every farm. The title page above quoted tells what the book is and we have only to add that we recommend all our readers to procure a copy of it, and keep it in some convenient place for daily reference.

Some one has sent us the "Transactions of the Middlesex County Agricultural Society," for the year 1853. We feel greatly obliged for it, particularly as we find in it what we call a most excellent address upon an important subject too much overlooked at the present day, by Hon. Lorenzo Sabine. We shall make room for some extracts from it in our next.

#### Trial of Corn Planters.

The trial of corn planters, at Jacksonville, was concluded on Tuesday evening. The competition was limited, only five machines being entered, but the excellence of those present fully made up for want of numbers. Two were hand planters, for hills, one manufactured by **LESTER PATTEE**, of Pekin, and the other by **RANDALL & JONES**, Rockton; by either of which, we are satisfied a person can drop and cover two rows at once, in a field marked out only one way, at the rate of a mile and a half an hour, as an average. Two were horse power machines, dropping and covering two rows at once, in a field marked one way. Of these, one, invented and manufactured by **G. W. CUNNINGHAM**, of Bethel, Morgan Co., covered the corn by means of a

double sett of cultivator plows; while the other, invented and manufactured by **G. W. Brown, Esq.**, of Knoxville, covered by two wide drum-wheels, which closed up the furrows opened by a sled-runner, into which the corn was dropped. We liked this machine. It exhibits a great deal of mechanical ability in the contrivance, and with improvements, which it is now obviously susceptible of, will meet the wants of our farmers. One of these improvements is the dispensing with the man who controls the discharge of the grain. This can evidently be done.—One man and a pair of horses will then plant correctly twenty acres a day, and roll the ground at the same operation, crushing all lumps and clods. Good-bye to the bull-tongues. The fifth machine was a drill, manufactured by **WM. TEAL**, of Batavia, Kane Co. This machine, with one man and one horse, drops and covers one row, or ten acres a day with no previous preparation of the ground. It is generally conceded that drill culture produces from ten to twenty per cent, more of crop but involves the labor of hoeing where the ground is disposed to weeds. The friends of the implement, however, assert that this is obviated by permitting the planter to follow the plow; planting the corn the same week or day the land is broken up. The plant thus gets the start of the weeds so that a plow is sufficient to attend it. If this is true, and we think it very plausible, this is the proper culture for corn in this country.

On the whole, the trial was very satisfactory; it passed off harmoniously, the best of feeling prevailing among the exhibitors and all concerned. The former we noticed comparing notes freely upon the result of their experiments in planting. This is a very important feature in these trials. Inventors and manufacturers, as well as farmers, learn what is done by others, and we suggest to the former the combination, upon equitable principles, of the advantages of their inventions, to produce a perfect machine.

On the first Wednesday in July there will be a trial of Self-Raking Reapers and of Mowing Machines at Bloomington, to which we look forward with much interest.—*Springfield (Ill.) Journal*.

**CULTURE OF MELONS, &c.**—With a little judicious exertion melons of an excellent quality may be produced in abundance, in nearly every quarter of our *Cultivator* parish. Those who wish to be in season should lose no time now in preparing the ground for planting. For each hill, dig a hole at least two feet deep and two feet wide, and fill one foot of the bottom with hog-pen manure; then fill above the natural surface, with fine compost of rich earth, mold and leached ashes, well mixed together. The hills should be about seven feet apart, each way.

When the weather is warm enough to insure quick germination, stick in the seeds, an inch deep, and four to six inches apart. If the weather should be very dry the hills should be watered once a day, with water that has been exposed to the air long enough to attain an equal temperature with the atmosphere.

Have ready a set of covers, equal to the number of hills, made by nailing together a box made of 4 strips of thin boards, say 15 inches long and 6 inches wide, with a piece of millinet or other gauzy stuff for a top. When the plants show themselves above ground, these are to be put over them to keep off the bugs; and will also serve to ward off the cold winds.

When the plants are well established, select two or three of the best for size and location, in each hill, and pull the others out. Keep the ground loose and clean, with the hoe, and you may reasonably expect a good crop.

Cucumbers may be treated much in the same way as melons, except that as they are desired to throw out fruit more rapidly, a more stimulating manure is desirable, and the hills should be watered during the time of bearing with liquid manure, which may be had by half-filling a barrel with manure from the horse stable, and filling up with water.

**LOOK OUT FOR THE STRIPED BUGS.**—An agriculturist, who has tried the experiment successfully for three years, informs the *Bangor Mercury* that a few seeds of tomato dropped into the hill with cucumbers, or a tomato plant set out, which is the better mode, will keep off black fleas and striped bugs, who dislike the flavor of the tomato.

### To Keep Wheel Tires Tight.

A correspondent of the *Southern Planter* gives the following mode of preparing the fellows of Wheels, so that they will keep tight.

"I ironed a wagon some years ago for my own use, and before putting on the tires, I filled the fellows with linseed oil; and the tires have worn out and were never loose. I ironed a buggy for my own use, seven years ago and the tires are now as tight as when put on.

My method of filling the fellows with oil is as follows: I use a long cast iron oil heater, made for the purpose, the oil is brought to a boiling heat, the wheel is placed on a stick so as to hang in oil, each fellow one hour for a common sized fellow. The timber should be dry, as green timber will not receive oil. Care should be taken that the oil be made no hotter than the boiling heat in order that the timber be not burnt. Timber filled with oil is not susceptible of water and the timber is much more durable. I was amused, some time ago, when I told a blacksmith how to keep tires tight on the wheels, by his telling me it was a profitable business to tighten tires; and the wagon maker will say it is profitable to him to make and repair wheels—but what will the farmer who supports the wheelwright and smith, say?

**HINTS FOR BUILDING A BARN.**—If I was about to build a barn, and my farm was well adapted to the growing of a large quantity of hay, I would build according to the following plan: The width should not be less than 40 feet, and the length as much more as I thought I should need; then have the large doors in the end of the barn and the floor go the whole length, with a scaffold over the last 12 feet, the floor to be not over 12 feet in the clear; the posts on each side twelve feet apart to reach from the sills and framed into the rafters at the top. The beams are to be let into the posts with mortice and tenon, all except the two end beams which will extend the whole width of the frame; then have the door cap 12 feet from the floor, the other girts the same over the floor for the purpose of scaffolding over the floor. The girts on the hay-mow side should be 4 feet from the top to the sill. The rafters I would frame into the ridgepole, which should be 6 or 7 inches square. Now have all your rafters except the end ones, braced into the ridgepole to stiffen the whole. For convenience in raising, frame in near the top of the posts over the floor some planks to lay something to stand upon while raising.

The tie-up I would have 13 feet or more, and a chance for throwing down behind the cattle:

Now for a place to locate the barn. I would choose an elevated spot of ground highest on



the north side of the barn, and the end where the big doors go in, I would have a permanent wall for the sills to rest upon, and if the ground is favorable I should prefer a good wall of brick or stone under the other end, excepting the space under the barn floor for a road way. On the south side I would prefer having the posts the whole length from the beams to the ground, excepting the corner posts, which will set on the sills, the long posts to be 12 inches square at the lower end and 8 inches at the top; the other posts that stand by the side of the barn floor to be supported by studs framed into a sill underneath the floor for the purpose of boarding up underneath. By this you get two sheds the whole length of your barn, one under the barn floor, the other under the hay-mow; then have a rick and a chance to feed into it the whole length of the barn floor and under the now, so that you can feed all without going out of the barn.—*Maine Farmer.*

#### An Excellent plan for growing Cucumbers.

We clip the following from an exchange. We have tried the same plan and proved its excellence.—*Amer Agr.*

Take a large barrel, or hogshead; saw it in two in the middle, and bury each half in the ground even with the top. Then take a small keg and bore a small hole in the bottom, place the keg in the centre of the barrel, the top even with the ground, and fill in the barrel around the keg with rich earth, suitable for the growth of cucumbers. Plant your seed midway between the edges and the keg, and make a kind of arbor a foot or two high for the vines to run on. When the ground becomes dry, pour water in the keg in the evening—it will pass out at the bottom of the keg into the barrel and rise up to the roots of the vines, and keep them moist and green. Cucumbers cultivated this way will grow to a great size, as they are made independent both of drought and wet weather. In wet weather the barrel can be covered, and in dry the ground can be kept moist by pouring water in the keg.

**A VALUABLE REMEDY.**—The New Haven (Conn) Palladium says "We are able to record another case of the complete cure of erysipelas by the simple application of the raw cranberries pounded fine. The patient was a young lady, one side of whose face had become so much swollen and inflamed, that the eye had become closed and the pain excessive. A poultice of cranberries was applied, and after several changes the pain ceased, the inflammation subsided, and in the course of a couple of days, every vestige of the disease

had disappeared.—The case occurred in the family of one of the editors of the Palladium, and we can therefore vouch for truth."

**USE OF GUANO.**—We are receiving frequent inquiries as to the use of Guano, and its application. The following practical points, as to its application, we extract from a late English paper—the Mark-Lane Express:

**First**—Never mix it with any thing at all; lime, compost, ashes, and similar ingredients, too often contain enough caustic alkali to drive off the ammoniacal parts, before the soil can surround and absorb them. A vast amount of mischief and loss often follows this sad mistake. If they could apply it alone, the soil can best adapt it for plants.

**Second**—Mix as much as possible with the soil, not too deeply, but plow it in after sowing it broad cast, unless it be for beans or drilled and ridged crops, when it may be sown on the surface before the ridges are made.

**Third**—If applied as a top dressing, always apply it, if possible, before rain, or when snow is on the ground; and if on arable land, harrow, hoe or scuffle, if possible, immediately after the operation.

**Fourth**—The best mode to apply it is by water. A slight solution of it is by far the most powerful and speedy application.

**Fifth**—If sowed with drilled grain, or indeed any seed whatever, it should never come in contact. It is not a bad plan to sow broad cast, after the corn-drill, and then harrow, as it is kept in the nearest proximity to the seed, without coming in contact with it.

**Lastly**—Be sure to get, if possible, the genuine article; cheap guano there is none. It is best to have a quantity purchased together, and analyzed by a practical chemist.

The quantity of genuine guano, per acre, used, is from two to three hundred pounds. The latter quantity when the land is deficient and requires speedy renovation.

#### Cures for Various Diseases.

**CURE FOR MANGE.**—Take lard and sulphur mix together, and put in lamp oil sufficient to make it pliable, more or less according to the warmth of the day. Rub the part affected with a cob, till you take off the scurf, then rub on the above with the hands. In two days go over them again, and as often after as you see signs of disease.

**CURE FOR SCRATCHES.**—Rub the part affected with a cob—then take of the above mixture, and rub on thoroughly with a cob. Apply once a day until cured. If you drive in the mud, wash well with soap suds before applying the above. Feed occasionally one table spoonful of sulphur.

**CURE FOR LICK.**—Apply the mixture at such

points as the lice are most inclined to congregate; feed sulphur if convenient. You may be sure if you doctor for mange, you kill the lice.

**CURE FOR WARTS.**—If not so large as to endanger too much bleeding, pull them off, and apply the above mixture.

I had a steer that I had keeping out, which has a bunch of warts on his belly, as large as a two quart measure. I am now doctoring him and if successful I will report. I thought at first I should lose him. Yours very truly, C. B. Perkins, *Becket.* **Ms.—Country Gentleman.**

### To Raise Giant Asparagus.

A writer in one of the early volumes of the Horticulturist, (Mr. Downing, we believe,) tells how to grow common asparagus so that it will always rival any giant production.

He says:

Every one who has seen my beds, has begged me for the seed—thinking it new sort—but I have pointed to the *manure heap*—(the farmer's best bank)—and told them that the secret all laid there. The sight was only such as might be in every garden.

About the first of November—as soon as the frost has well blackened the asparagus tops—I take a scythe, and mow all down close to the surface of the bed; let it lie a day or two then set fire to the heap of stalks, burn it to ashes, and spread the ashes over the bed.

I then go to my barn-yard; I take a load of clean, fresh stable manure, and add thereto, half a bushel of hen-dung; turning over and mixing the whole together throughout. This makes a pretty powerful compost. I apply one such load to every twenty feet in length of my asparagus beds, which are six feet wide. With a strong three pronged *spud* or fork, I dig this dressing under. The whole is now left for the winter.

In the spring, as early as possible, I turn the top of the bed over lightly, once more. Now, as the asparagus grows naturally on the side of the ocean, and loves salt water, I give it an annual supply of its favorite condiment. I cover the surface of the bed about a quarter of an inch thick with fine pecking salt; it is not too much. As the spring rains come down, it gradually dissolves. Not a weed will appear during the whole season. Everything else, pigweed, purslane, all refuse to grow on the top of my asparagus beds. But it would do your eyes good to see the strong, stout, tender stalks of the plant itself push up through the surface early in the season. I do not at all stretch a point when I say that they are as large around as my hoe handle, and as tender and succulent as any I ever tasted. The same round of treatment is given to my bed every year.

### How to Rear Pigs.

Mr. Editor:—I have a fine Suffolk sow, which lately had a litter of ten pigs; in the course of forty-eight hours after the pigs were born, she killed six of them, by overlaying and smothering them. I was relating and lamenting the loss, in the presence of an Irish girl that lives in my family, and she immediately said, if they had been in her country, all would have been saved. I said, Mary, how do they manage pigs in your country? "Dear a me!" she replied, "we put them all in a box, so the mother can't hurt them." "Well, how do you feed them?" I inquired. "O bless my soul," said she, "we put them with the mother several times during the day, until they are a week old, and then they can take care of themselves."

The thought occurred to me, that possibly some others besides myself, might be ignorant of the Irish science of rearing pigs, and if you think proper, you can publish the method for the benefit of the community, until we get something better from Congress or the Colleges.—*Country Gentleman.*

### Finality on the Strawberry.

At a meeting of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, on the 15th of April, the Secretary, at the request of the Society, reported a written statement of how he found the Strawberry question in Philadelphia; after some animated discussion, it was moved to accept and file the report, and the Finality was ordered to appear in the minutes of the day.

Wild or cultivated, the Strawberry presents in its varieties, four distinct forms or characters of inflorescence.

First: Those called *Pistillate*, from the fact that the stamens are abortive, and rarely to be found without a dissection of the flower. These require extrinsic impregnation.

Second: Those called *Staminate*, which are perfectly destitute of even the rudiments of pistils, and are necessarily fruitless.

Third: Those called *Hermaphrodite* or perfect, having both sets of organs, stamens and pistils, apparently well developed. These are not generally good and certain bearers, as we should expect them to be. With few exceptions they bear poorly, owing to some unbierved defect, probably in the pistils. One tenth of their flowers generally produce perfect and often very large berries.

Fourth: A rare class—a sort of *subdivision* of the preceding, has not only hermaphrodite flowers, but also some on the same truss that are of the pistillate character; and sometimes, in the same plant, a truss will be seen, on which all the flowers are pistillate.

Now these four divisions are *natural* and *real*; they are also founded upon permanent characters, so far as we have been able to discover, after a most thorough investigation, extending through a long series of years, during which millions of strawberry blossoms have been examined with the severest scrutiny. Other forms may exist, and it is not claimed to be impossible that we may yet find a seedling which shall have the general character of a *pisillate*, that may show an occasional perfect, or *hermaphrodite* flower, as a peculiarity of that individual, but we have never yet met with such a variety; and further, we believe, that whatever impress, as to peculiarities of foliage, pubescence, habit, inflorescence, or fruit, each distinct seedling may receive with its origin, it will be retained in its increase by runners, so long as the variety remains extant. Seedlings may vary from the parent, but off-shoots will not be materially different, except by accidental malformation, or by development of unimportant organs.

JOHN A. WARDER, Secretary.

### Domestic Receipts

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

**COLDRAW.** Cut a hard white head of cabbage in two, shave one-half as finely as possible, and put it into a stewpan, with a bit of butter the size of an egg, one small tea-spoonful of salt, and nearly as much pepper; add to it a wine glass of vinegar; cover stewpan, and set it over a gentle heat for five minutes, shake the stewpan about; when heated through turn it into a dish, and serve as a salad.

**HOW TO PREVENT WET FEET.** The Mechanic's Magazine says:

I have had three pair of boots for the last six years, (no shoes) and I think I shall not require any more for the next six years to come. The reason is that I treat them in the following manner: I put a pound of tallow and a half pound of rosin in a pot on the fire; when melted and mixed I warm the boots and apply the hot stuff with a painter's brush until neither the sole nor the upper leather will sink in any more. If it is desired that the boots should immediately take a polish, dissolve an ounce of wax in a teaspoonful of lamp black. A day after the boots have been treated with the tallow and rosin, rub them over with this wax in turpentine, but not before the fire. Thus the exterior will have a coat of wax alone, and shines like a mirror. Tallow or any other grease becomes rancid, and rots the stitching as well as leather; but the rosin gives it an antiseptic quality which preserves the whole. Boots and shoes should be so large as to admit of wearing cork soles. Cork is so bad a conductor of heat that with it in the boots the feet are always warm on the coldest floor.

**REMEDY FOR SMUT IN WHEAT.** Steeping seed wheat four hours in a saturated solution of chloride of lime, has been found a preventive of smut. Wheat perfectly clean from smut will not produce it, but seed can be infected by contact. Washing wheat in lime, and skimming out all the light kernels, probably acts as a purifier, though the lime, in which it is afterwards rolled may prove a remedy by destroying the fungus. Some such application should always be made.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

## THE MARKETS.

### St. Louis Market—Wholesale.

Saturday, May 6, 1854.

**HEMP**—\$160@165  $\nabla$  ton, Hackled \$220.  
**FLOUR**— $\nabla$  bbl. good country brands, \$5 50@56 choice brands, \$6 75; extra country and city \$6 90@6 87.  
**WHEAT**— $\nabla$  bushel, good to prime, \$1.35@1.40, choice \$1.50@1.55.  
**CORN**— $\nabla$  bushel 40@45 cents; sacks included.  
**OATS**— $\nabla$  bushel, 35@40 cents, sacks included.  
**BARLEY**— $\nabla$  bushel, 75@80 cents.  
**MESS PORK**— $\nabla$  bbl., \$11.50.  
**PICKLED HAMS**— $\nabla$  lb., 54 cents.  
**LARD**— $\nabla$  lb., No. 1 \$2.00 cents.  
**SUGAR**— $\nabla$  lb., common, 37@44 cents.  
**MOLASSES**— $\nabla$  gallon, 21@22 cents.  
**COFFEE**— $\nabla$  lb., Rio, 11 1/2@11 1/4 cents.  
**SALT**— $\nabla$  sack, G. A., \$1.65.  
**PIG IRON**— $\nabla$  ton, cold blast \$45@50.  
**HAY**— $\nabla$  100 lbs. timothy, 70@88 cents.  
**BRAN**—70@75 cents  $\nabla$  100 lbs.  
**BUTTER AND CHEESE**—Fair country butter, \$20 00 cts good to prime, 11@13c; choice Ohio roll, 16@17c. W. R. cheese 8@10c for prime.  
**DRIED FRUIT**—apples \$1; peaches, \$1.15@1.25  $\nabla$  bu.  
**GREEN APPLES**—\$1.50@1.60  $\nabla$  bushel.

### LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Wedge House, Saturday, May 6.

**CATTLE.**—Demand greater than supply, and market firm at quotations. Sales of the week limited to a few lots, which we take from the registry of the above house, as follows: James Taylor, of Cooper county, sold 34 head at 6 1/2, and 45 do at 7 cents; G. A. Anderson, of Cooper, 30 head at and 7 at 6 1/2; Z. P. Vandever, same county, 45 head at 7 1/2, and 10 do at 7; Mr. Lewis, of St. Louis county, 20 head at 7, and 50 do at 6 1/2. It is generally supposed that most of the marketable cattle are in, and that the supply in the country is small. Shipping demand good, and butchers willing to pay high for good qualities. None in the yards or neighborhood.

**HOGS.**—Sale of 194 head at \$4 30, and 120 do at \$4, to shippers.

**SHEEP.**—On the Illinois side, sales to butchers at \$4 65. We quote \$4 to \$5, including fleece.

From the Maine Farmer.

### Indian Corn.

One of the things that the fool knew was that the miller's hogs were fat, though he could not tell whose meal made them so. Miller's hogs are apt to be fat; and inasmuch as it is meal that makes them so, it matters not, to our present purpose, whose the meal is.

But it is not hogs alone, that Indian meal makes fat; it fattens horses, cattle, sheep, and poultry, as well; and is withal, in some parts of the country, a favorite article of food for man.

Indian corn, prepared by cooking or grinding, or both, is most valuable feed for nearly every animal on the farm, at all seasons of the year. It keeps without difficulty through the year. It is not, like the potato, subject to rot; and is one of the surest crops that can be raised. We are aware that nearly every year, in this climate, there are days when the farmers are in a general trepidation, first of late frosts in the spring, and then of early frosts in the autumn. But these fears are commonly groundless; and when they are realized at all, it is almost always only to an exceedingly limited extent. The history of the country, from the time of its settlement by the whites, will show scarcely any general failure of the crop of Indian corn; perhaps one, which was pretty general in New England, but not entire, and one other, when there was not more than half the usual crop.

There have been other seasons when the frost has nipped very early-planted fields, in the spring, or very late-planted, in the fall; or those in low and cold places; but our statement, that, on the whole, Indian corn is one of the surest crops that can be planted, is fully borne out by the facts.

We have observed, as a rule, that farmers who raise and feed out at home large quantities of Indian corn are prosperous men. Corn fits everything to which it is fed, for market. Its tendency is always towards cash. It makes the richest of manure, and thus prepares the land for subsequent heavy crops. Turnips are good, carrots are good; hay is good; but the more Indian corn the better.

We entertain the opinion, that farmers would be greatly benefited by cultivating this crop much more extensively than they do at present. And while recommending its more extensive cultivation, we at the same time recommend its home consumption. Let none of it be carried off, except so much as goes in the form of fat meat, or butter or cheese. Then farms and farmers will grow rich together.

A gentleman of uncommon intelligence, a good manager of business, commended farming last spring. He kept a careful account of the expense and yield of all his cultivated

rops; and was surprised to find his Indian corn the most profitable of any.

### Edmund Ruffin, of Virginia, The Great Agriculturist.

The Baltimore Sun of last Thursday, in citing the names of many distinguished men in attendance on the late Convention at Charleston, put down the name of "Edwin Ruffin of Va., the great agriculturist." What an honorable title. It caught our eye among the many great names that surrounded it, and we dwelt on the thought of which it was the father with inexpressible pleasure. There it stood among "senators and governors and representatives, one solitary name, one great man distinguished as a farmer and we put him down, in our mind, as the greatest man among that vast assembly of great men. A farmer—"the great agriculturist!" proud enabling title! and well does Edmond Ruffin of Virginia deserve the title. But may we not draw a lesson from this little incident? May not the farmer see that in his own sphere distinction can be gained? May he not learn that his sons, if learned and trained to the rising progressive profession of agriculture can reap laurels as green as ever decked the brow of soldier or citizen? Yes, for among the great men of the nation who attended the great Commercial Convention at Charleston, was the renowned "E. Ruffin of Va., the great agriculturist!"

From the New York Tribune.

### Remedy for the Potato Rot.

ERIEVILLE, N. Y., Saturday, March 25, 1864.

Permit me to state an experiment which I made for three successive years, obtaining each year corresponding results. It was simply this: Two square boxes, four feet each way, and two deep, were filled with very rich dirt, the dirt first being well mixed up, and then the boxes filled from it. The boxes were placed in a very warm situation the one raised a few inches from the ground, and the other elevated two or three feet on upright sticks which were kept well coated with tar during the season, and which had the effect of keeping the bugs from the box. Around the sides of the box was a sort of lattice work, to prevent the vines from dropping over the sides. Against the side of the other box was raised a bank, nearly level with the top of the box.

In each of these boxes were planted each year four hills of potatoes—the white pink eyes. Four large potatoes were halved, each box receiving the half of each potato. During the season the potatoes in these boxes were kept well watered, receiving equal quantities of the fluid. The result was invariably this: The vines in the box from which the bugs had



been excluded remained green till the frost came, exhibiting no symptom of blight. The potatoes when dug, were large and perfectly sound, and so remained till the next summer. In the other box, where the vines were sometimes covered with potato insects and bugs, the tops were dead by the first of August. When the potatoes were dug, those in the latter box were nearly all rotten, and not half the size of those in the other box. Will you explain this phenomena on any other principle than that of the insect theory?

To the farmer, I would say, procure those kinds of potatoes which have the greatest celebrity for resisting the ravages of the bugs. Don't plant in very rich or warm places. Plant early, and dig before the wet weather sets in in the fall. And by all means keep the potatoes dry and warm, after they are taken out of the ground.

A. HOGBOOM.

### Raising and Feeding Hogs.

In this county, [Warren county, Indiana,] where land and corn are cheap and labor high, as cheap a mode of producing pork as could be pursued would be as follows: Have your pigs come in April, or as soon thereafter as possible. Let the sows have the range of the clover field, and corn enough to keep them in condition while suckling. Feed the weaned pigs some corn to keep them growing; young pigs do not thrive well on clover alone; they must be wintered, too, on corn. The next season, if they have been kept thriving through the winter, they will continue to do so during spring on clover alone. Take them off before it goes to seed, else they will slobber. Have a field of ripe oats or rye for them to run on when called off the clover; it should keep them a month, by which time corn will be in roasting ear; cut up and feed them what they will eat, they will eat the ear and much the stalk, and the balance they will chew, so as to extract its juice. As much is realized from corn at this as at any subsequent time. When corn is hard in September, have a field to turn them on. In dry weather the waste will not pay for the gathering, and of this your stock hogs, turned in afterward, will save much. In wet weather the plan cannot be followed; that which is trampled in the ground will spoil. The corn must, therefore, be gathered and fed while the ground remains soft. This, however, is not generally done, once turned on, they are suffered to remain. When the hogs have gathered the fields they should be penned near running water and fed what corn they will eat. They will come into early market weighing 250 pounds and upwards. This plan is adapted to raising hogs in large lots, where access to market is difficult; I know of no one who has pursued the plan throughout. It needs a large farm and

the combination of soil which will raise clover, oats, and corn; but its several features are highly approved of and practiced upon by some of our most judicious farmers. The oat-field, after being cropped by the hogs, has all the straw on it ready to turn under for wheat; and in a country where manuring is not practiced, it is easy to perceive that the corn field is left in a better condition for a future crop than if the corn had been gathered and fed.

B. B. BOYER, in Patent Office Report.

### Fine Stock.

Mr. Avery Grimes, of Monroe county, passed through this city last Saturday, direct from Bourbon county Ky., with seven head of young cattle and nine head of sheep. The cattle, or most all of them, are thorough bred Derhams, and are the finest we have ever seen. The largest, a two year old heifer—is most beautiful animal—and weighs 1,467 pounds. She was exhibited at two fairs in Kentucky last fall—at Eminence and at Louisville, and took premiums at both.

A calf not quite six months old weighs 191 pounds. The remaining five are year lings, and though they have been badly used, their size is immense and their proportion good. These will be a valuable accession to the fine stock of Monroe county, and we hope that their enterprising owner may realize a rich return for his outlay and trouble.

The Sheep were also very young and of the finest blood, of a mammoth size, and cost Mr. Grimes \$25 per head. Their wool is as soft as silk and of a great length:—The fleeces of one of these sheep will weigh 12 pounds, while the fleece of one full grown will weigh at least 18 pounds.—We are pleased to see our citizens making such efforts to improve our stock.—Han. Messenger.

A NEW MODE OF FENCING.—It is said that a gentleman resident in Windsor, Vt., had introduced into that region a method of fencing, which for cheapness, durability and efficiency can hardly be surpassed. He procured stakes of a suitable wood, 5 feet in length, and steeped the lower portion of them in a solution of blue vitriol—one pound of vitriol to forty of water. This renders them almost indestructible by the natural process. He then drove the stakes into the ground at the distance of eight inches apart, bringing the tops into a straight line, and nailing upon them a narrow strip of board, using one nail for each stake. Among the advantages of the fence thus made, apart from its cheapness it is said "cattle and sheep can't get through it, horses will not jump it, hogs will go a good distance round, rather than climb over it, and a lazy man can't sit in the shade of it."

## The Family Circle.

Conducted by  
Mrs. MARY ABBOTT.

### Progress and Improvement.

Progress and improvement in *every* thing appears to be the order of the times. Farmers are bringing their farms, their stock, and even their poultry to the highest state of cultivation, and their dwellings must be greatly improved. All this we like, but in the midst of all this great progress and high cultivation, are not their own minds and those of their children going to waste, and the ground now growing up to weeds? Are your children growing up in all that is lovely and of good report? Is improvement of mind and heart as marked upon them as upon every thing else around you? If so, you must be a happy farmer and a successful cultivator. If not, it is time for you to stop and consider, for you have neglected the most important part of your cultivation—that of the minds and hearts of yourselves and children. Of what avail will all your improvements in agriculture and increase in riches be, if your children do not prove blessings to you?

Mother! that tender infant that God has just committed to your care, is a germ of immortal growth, and the great Giver will hold you responsible for its cultivation. It will need more than washing, dressing and feeding. It has an immortal mind to be moulded by your will, and in order to do your duty aright you see the importance of cultivating your own mind. The farmer, the mechanic and the artist read, and study, and strive to get the wisdom of the wise in order that they may excel in their various callings; and ought not mothers to follow their example? They, too, must read and study in order to qualify themselves for their more important duty—that of training immortal beings for eternity.

Try to make your children love your society. In this way you may give them both precept and example at the same time—"here a little and there a little."

The immortal plants you must cultivate yourselves. Now, in this beautiful Spring time, teach them to love the beautiful in nature. Take them with you as you walk amidst the flowers, and strive to raise their minds

"From Nature up to Nature's God."

And when time shall be with us parents no longer, may we all be so happy as to meet at the bar of God in judgment, and be enabled to exclaim in triumph "Here Lord, we are and the children Thou hast given us," and receive the welcome plaudit—"Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord!"

### Thomas' Horticultural Garden.

We have just received from Mr. THOMAS a few pots of flowers, among which are a beautiful monthly rose, and a fine flourishing rose geranium, all of which we prize very highly. We visited his place last Summer, and was much pleased with the manner in which he was laying out his grounds. He has the greatest variety of native and foreign plants and shrubbery that we know of in this vicinity. Mr. T. intends to make his place a pleasant and delightful resort for those who would like to spend a few hours away from the noise, dust and heat of the city in the cooling shades and beautiful walks of his pleasant garden grounds, and procure some of the prettiest bouquets to be found in the country. We would recommend our friends who wish to procure any plants or shrubs to send to him, and they will be sure to obtain what they send for and that of the best variety.

PERSONAL.—Our "better half" on her sick bed requests us to insert the following paragraph, from the pen of Mrs. Bateham, of the Ohio Cultivator, and also to say that she does not, never did, and never will assume the position of a partizan, and seeks no controversy with any one:

PERSONAL.—The Editor of the *Prairie Farmer* may for aught we know, consider himself a gentleman, and if so he will oblige us by producing the proof of the assertion in his last paper, that the Editress of our Ladies' Department "is a staunch believer in, and preacher of the new doctrine of

'Women's Rights,' and makes her corner-redolent of the gymnastics of the 'strong-minded.' We pronounce the statement false and scurrilous, and ask for proof or a retraction. If Mr. Wright supposes his readers approve such low attempts at wit, he pays a poor compliment to their intelligence or refinement.

H. B. D.

### Words for the Dejected.

Able Christian, know your resources.—Hear your God saying, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Make use of him as your "hiding-place," your "dwelling-place."—Beware, in your distress, of crooked policy, of unlawful means of relief, of impatience, of dejection. By nothing can you so much please God as by your confidence in him, and by nothing can you so recommend your religion, as by showing the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keeping your heart and mind, through Jesus Christ. Check, therefore, every tendency, not only to murmuring, but to despondency, and after the example of your model, this evening say, "What time I am afraid I will trust in thee;" "Why art thou cast down, O, my soul; and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him who is the health of my countenance and my God."—Jay.

### Flashy Young Ladies.

It strikes us that that lady who thinks of nothing else but her beauty, will find herself in a melancholy fix when old time shall have scratched her pretty face full of wrinkles, and exploded her romantic dresses for the realities of old age. Surely it will be taking away her gods, and what will she have left? We have seen some such who had nothing left but desperation, the full and terrible weight which fell upon the devoted heads of divers sufferers in the shape of husbands, &c., who were sufficiently sensible that intelligence in the old was as attractive as the beauty in the young. Women in their early years should be mindful that as life advances they cease to have any other attractions but those that arise from a cultivated intellect and heart, and therefore study sensible books, and cultivate their heads and hearts.—*Boston Mail*.

### Description of Choice Annuals.

CHINA PINK—*Dianthus sinensis*.—Why is it that this beautiful variety of a beautiful genus, is so much neglected? Few flowers excel it, either in a mass or in single plants, both for brilliancy and variety of color and profusion of bloom. It is very pretty as an annual, blooming the first season from seed. The roots are perfectly hardy, requiring no protection through the winter, and the next season each plant will be a splendid mass of flowers; and it is succeeded by seedlings which

will bloom until cold weather, as ordinary frosts do not check them.

When I first began to cultivate the China Pink, several years ago, I could scarcely get a double one in a season; but by good cultivation, saving the seed from double ones and destroying the single ones, I now get mostly double ones, and those greatly improved both in size and color; so that they are the admiration of all who behold them.

The China Pink is properly a biennial, and seed should be sown every year, both for late flowers the same season, and early the next.]

ANNUAL PALMROSE—*Godetia Wildenowii*, *Lindleyana*, &c.—There are several varieties of this beautiful flower, which make the fine masses of bloom from July to November, braving the early frosts of autumn, and expanding their fine roseate blossoms when most of the denizens of the flower garden are withered and dead. It is of the easiest culture and seems to do best on rather poor soil.

DOUBLE POT MARIGOLD—*Calendula officinalis fl. pleno*.—This a beautiful dwarf double variety of the old yellow pot marigold so common in every country garden. The flowers are very double, and of various shades, from light yellow to deep orange. The plant grows readily from seed in any common garden soil, and continues a long time in flower.

HOVEY'S NEW ORANGE GLOBE AMARANTHUS—*Gomphrena Hovei*.—This is a decided acquisition, in the way of novelties. The flowers are larger than the common globe amaranth, and of a fine, bright orange color, making a brilliant show in the garden, and also desirable for keeping dried for winter bouquets.—*Country Gentleman*.

BOSTON GINGERBREAD.—This is the gingerbread which, when a boy, made general trainings and "cattle shows" of so much interest to us and the other urchins. We have eaten much gingerbread since then, but none so good as that. Three cups of flour, one cup of molasses, two eggs, one table spoonful of dissolved saleratus, two large table spoonfuls ginger, one table spoonful of cinnamon, and milk enough to form a dough. Rub the butter and flour together and add the other ingredients. Roll it out in sheets, cut thin, and butter with molasses and water before they are put into the oven. They require a very moderate heat to bake them, as they easily scorch.—*Prairie Farmer*.

CURE FOR A DRY COUGH. Take of powdered gum-arabic, half an ounce; liquorice-juice, half an ounce. Dissolve the gum first in warm water, squeeze in the juice of a lemon, then add of paregoric two drachms; syrup of squills, one drachm. Cork all in a bottle and shake well. Take one tea spoonful when the cough is troublesome.

### For Husbands and Wives.

*"The Little Foxes that Spoil the Vines."*

"I'm glad my husband isn't so notional!" said a gossiping neighbor to a friend, whose husband had just passed out of the room, after finding fault with some little domestic arrangement not exactly within his sphere.

"I'm sorry Mr. C. has this habit," replied the other, mildly; "but as I cannot remedy it I must bear it patiently."

Such were the words which passed the lips; but the hearer little knew what a train of sad thoughts they had elicited for the day.

That afternoon, as Mrs. C. sat alone, engaged in her sewing, her mind was busy with the days of her girlhood, when free from care she was a loved and cherished daughter, gathering the flowers of life, but bearing none of its burdens. Then followed those days of anticipation, when he whom she now called husband was a frequent visitor at her father's house; she recalled the hours when together they read, rode or sung; when time was swift-footed, and the old family clock seemed to measure its revolutions by her quick pulse and light step. But, O! how different was the present from the past! She had been married five years; their first babe a beautiful child was carried to the grave just as it had learned to lisp the word "mama;" their second was now an infant, but a fretful child requiring much patience, and many hours of personal attendance. The mother had grown pale and thin under the heavy duties of nurse and housekeeper. Her husband was a physician, with the practice of a small country village—enough to afford a comfortable support for his family, but requiring much prudence and good management to enable them to lay up any thing for old age or a rainy day.

It was necessary, therefore, that Mrs. C. should "look well to the ways of her household;" nor could she as a faithful wife, "eat the bread of idleness." Sometimes the body was weary, and the spirit, too, would flag beneath its duties. Then, too, she had learned that her husband had his peculiarities. Yes; she must acknowledge it to herself that he was very notional and set in his way. If there was a simple heavy streak in the bread or a grain too much soda, he would be sure to notice it; if the baby sneezed, it had taken cold; or if a button was missing from his shirt, he wondered that it should have found its way into the drawer until repaired. Yes, all this was true; and as his wife thought it all over during the baby's nap, that afternoon, she began seriously to think that she had trouble—that life was full of sorrow and perplexity. Soon the child awoke, and cried. This set it to coughing; a short spasm followed, which alarmed the young mother; and it was some

time before she could get the little one quiet. Then, on looking at the clock, it was near the usual time for tea. Seating her child upon the floor, and giving it some playthings, she hurried into the kitchen; but the doctor soon came in.

"Ah, my dear, isn't the supper ready? We must be more punctual."

"It will be on the table soon," said the wife, trying to suppress a choking sensation in her throat. As she uttered this, she sighed, and in her heart wished "she had never been married." It was a well-defined wish, and although it was unuttered, it was for a moment the real language of her soul. In the meantime, little Jessie had found the way into her father's arms, and was crowing with delight.

"Now for some supper," said the doctor, cheerfully, as he placed the child in its high chair, not forgetting, (for he was a particular man) the linen pinafore. He then assisted his wife in putting the dishes on the table.

He was tired and hungry, but the frugal meal revived him. If it is true that "no diplomatic difficulty is so great that it may not be covered with a table-cloth," then surely, a pleasant tea-table may be proved an antidote for slight domestic jars.

"Sanford has paid me that bill to-day," said the doctor. "I never expected to get a cent of it; and now Emma, I can purchase that illustrated edition of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, which you have so long wished to own. I am glad we did not buy it before, for there are some at the bookstore, to-day, bound in morocco, plain, but firm and good."

In pleasant chat the hour of tea passed, and Mrs. C. felt a pang of self-reproach, as she moved busily about the house, replacing the tea things and preparing for breakfast. "I was wrong, after all," she said to herself, "and forgot how many blessings are given to me."

The next day, when he returned home, he brought the new work, and, in looking at its beautiful illustrations, every unpleasant thought was forgotten. When they knelt at the family altar, and the husband used a petition which he had often offered before, each felt its force, and unknown one to the other, added from the heart a fervent amen. "O, let us not look for unattainable by looking for unmingled bliss on earth; but remember that this is not our rest, and be prepared for difficulties, trials, changes and final separation."

These last words, "final separation," softened each heart. The young wife thought of widowhood, and shuddered. "Such a punishment would be just for my rebellious thoughts, yesterday," she said within herself. The doctor, with true affection, looked with interest upon his pale, gentle and still beautiful wife. But though such feelings tended to subdue the irritation for the time, their influence was



only temporary. The next day brought its domestic duties, and the thousand petty trials which are always the portion of the wife and mother who performs her own household labor and takes the care of her children.

Mrs. C. was gentle-tempered, quiet and unobtrusive in her manner. She was not what is termed a literary woman, but she had a taste for reading, and her proficiency in the common English branches, taught in the village academy, was rather better than that of her companions. But she took little interest in the abstruse subjects which occupied the attention of her husband. He had a decided taste for the physical science, and his attainments in chemistry and philosophy might have fitted him for a professor's chair. He delighted in making experiments, and being, as we have already seen, a precise and particular man, he was generally very successful; for his weights were exact to the fraction of a grain, and all the furniture of his laboratory scrupulously clean. It was no wonder, then, that he thought bread and meat, puddings and pies, might be uniformly good.

"Have an exact rule, my dear, and always adhere to it, and never 'mix up,' as you term it, in a hurry; like cases will produce like results, physical laws are invariable, and there is no more need of heavy bread or overdone beef than there is that one ounce of my paragon should be unlike another, one box of blue pills be of different proportion from his neighbor."

Alas for the poor wife! Such doctrine was rather discouraging. She knew nothing of practical chemistry in housekeeping. She did as her mother had done before her, and, though a good housewife, yet she did not always satisfy the somewhat exacting demands of her husband. Let me not be understood that he was fretful—far from it; but he could not comprehend why all the details of housekeeping could not be as methodically managed as those of his own library. On the other hand, his wife was conscious that her husband was becoming more and more absorbed in his profession and studies, and had less leisure for herself and child. She had little time to give to society, and began to feel more and more her somewhat isolated and lonely position. It was well for her that she had a child, tho' it could not yet bear her name, and was sickly and fretful. The consciousness that her neighbors thought her husband "precise and fussy" annoyed her. She dwelt upon it when sewing in her quiet sitting-room, or when busy in her kitchen.

Her husband's practice about this time increased, and with it also his ambition to excel in those branches most nearly connected with his profession. Now, it never once entered his scientific head that the fire of domes-

tic affection must be supplied with fuel or the flame would diminish. He was careful to keep bright the coals in his laboratory furnace, but he forgot the fireside which conjugal love should carefully guard. He married from no mercenary motive; he believed it was true affection which led him to select his Emma from the rest of the world, and he had not the shadow of a doubt that her whole heart was his own. He had now and then wished she was more fond of scientific pursuits, yet it never occurred to him that she viewed him in any other light than the very model of a husband, for such he intended to be.

He could but see some trifling deficiencies in her; to be sure, but he believed that her affection was such as to blind her to all defects in his own character. And here we find them, a couple "happily married," as the world would say, and, for aught the world knows, and as far as outside appearance would indicate, enjoying a more than common share of conjugal felicity. But there is a sadness in that house, a little cloud in the horizon, which may spread till it darkens the whole sky, or may fade away like the light mist of morning. We have taken this instance because it is so common, and because there is in so many homes a little root of bitterness, marring the joy and beauty of married life. It may not be the "fussiness" of Mr. C. or the sensitiveness of his wife, but something as trivial—some bad habit indulged, some peculiarity unchecked, which embitters life, and sometimes leads to separation. We have not taken, as we might, the sad picture of the drunkard's home, where all conjugal happiness and love are drowned in liquid fire. With such we weep and pray, and look forward with hope to the day of our nation's deliverance, by the power of law, from this curse which has made so many homes wretched. Neither have we introduced our readers to the fireside of the gambler, the adulterer, or the modern fanatic, who laughs at sacredness of marriage, but still lives in the family relation. These gangrenes of society need desperate remedies, and a skillful physician. Our business now is with the little foxes that spoil the vines; with those homes where the plague-spot is so small that it is considered hardly presentable to the priest.

We have been astonished to observe how much conjugal happiness has been marred by bad habits or want of mutual confidence. Sometimes, when we have heard of the separation of a married couple, or the remark that certain persons did not "live happily together," our thoughts have gone back to the little cloud, once no larger than a man's hand, and we have mourned as we thought how easily it might have been chased away.

To be continued.

### A Parable for Children.

The following parable, translated from the German of Krummacher, illustrates a very important truth. We extract it from the national Magazine:—

On a fine autumn day, Richard was keeping his twelfth birthday. He was the son of kind and pious parents, who had given him a large number of presents of different kinds, and had allowed him to day to invite a party of friends.

They playing together in the garden, in which Richard had a small garden of his own, with flowers and fruit trees in it. On the garden wall there were growing some peach trees which were bearing fruit for the first time. The fruit was just beginning to ripen, and the red cheeks were showing through the delicate bloom which covered them. They looked so beautiful that the boys began to long for them.

But Richard said, "My father has told me not to touch these peaches; for it is the first fruit which the trees have borne. I have all sorts of fruit in my garden. Let us go away, or we might be tempted to pick them."

Then the boys said, "Why should we not taste them? To-day you are king of the garden, and no one else. You are a year older to-day. You don't always intend to be a child in leading strings, do you? Only come to our garden! No one tells us not pick things there."

But Richard said, "No, come with me.—Father has told me not to touch them."

Then the boys answered, "But your father will not see you; and how is he to find it out? If he asks you can say you know nothing of it."

"Fie!" replied Richard, "that would be a lie, and my cheeks would turn red and soon betray me."

Then the oldest said, "Richard is right.—Just listen; I know another way; look here Richard let us pick them; then you can say you did not do it." Richard and the others agreed to this. So they broke off the fruit and shared it.

As soon as it was getting dusk the boys went home. But Richard was afraid to meet his father; and whenever he heard the house door opened, he was frightened and trembled.

At last his father came, and when Richard heard his foot steps, he ran as quickly as he could, to the other side of the garden, where his own little garden was. But his father went and saw how the young trees had been stripped, and called, "Richard, Richard!—where are you?" When the lad heard his own name, he trembled still more from fear.

And his father came to him and said, "Is this the way you keep your birthday? and are these the thanks I receive, that you rob my trees?"

But Richard replied, "I have not touched the trees. Perhaps one of the boys did it."

Then his father took him into the house, and placed him in front of him in the light, and said, "Do you still want to deceive your father?" And the boy turned pale, and trembled, and with tears, confessed the whole.—But his father said, "from this time you are never to go into the garden again."

With this his father left him. But Richard could not sleep all night; he felt miserable as he was lying in the dark; he could hear his heart beat; and whenever he was falling asleep he was frightened by dreams. This was the worst night of his life.

The next day he looked pale and wretched, and his mother began to grieve for the boy. So she said to his father, "Look how Richard is taking it to heart, and how low-spirited he is. The locking up of the garden is a sign to him that his father's heart is locked against him too."

The father said, "That is what I wish.—That is the reason I locked up the garden."

"But then," said his mother, "It is so bad a beginning to the new year of his life."

"It will, for that very reason, be the happier afterward," was the father's reply.

After a few days the mother said again to the father, "I am afraid of Richard's despairing of our loving him again."

"There is no fear of that," replied the father, "his own guilty heart will assure him of the contrary. Hitherto he has enjoyed our love; now let him learn how to know and admire it, that he may recover it again."

"But," said the mother, "does not it seem to him now to be somewhat serious and stern?"

"That is true," answered the father; "for it appears as justice and wisdom. But let him learn in this way, through the consciousness of his sin to fear and honor it. And in due time it will appear to him again in its original shape, and he will again, without timidity, call it love. His present trouble is a proof that he is sure to do this by-and-by."

Some time had again passed by, when Richard came one morning out of his bedroom with a quiet but serious face. He had put together in a basket, all the presents he had ever had from his parents; and he now brought the basket and put it down before his parents.

Then his father said to him, "What does this mean, Richard?" And the boy said,—"Father, I don't deserve your kindness, so I have brought back the presents. But my heart tells me I am beginning to be a new child. So pray forgive me; and take me and everything you have so kindly given me."

Then the father folded his child in his arms and kissed him, and wept over him. And his mother did the same.

## List of Letters

Received at the Valley Farmer Office from  
March 20, to April 30, 1845.

J C Allison Louisiana Mo. 3; W B Anderson Huntsville 1; R C Amoureux St. Genevieve 1; M H Abbott Pittsfield.

T S Bragg, Oregon; H L Brown, Bayette; R A Brougham, Little Osage; W W Bobe, Mt. Vernon, 2, 30 (former letter with \$5 was received); Jerry Bradley Huntsville, 1, 25; W M Boyce, Bowling Green 1; T S Bragg, Oregon; P L Braden, Ninevah; T Bradley, Huntsville; B Beckner, Chesapeake 5; A H Brandon, Concord; J Brinker & Co, Brunswick.

F P Chamberlin, Savanah 1; J C Carman, Shiloh 1; W R Davis, Springfield; John Dolman, Thebes.

C C Ewing, Gailey Creek.

W L Frazier, Valley Prairie; W H Field, Georgetown 1.

J W Gillum, Louisville 1; Samuel Grove, Finneys Grove;

W Gray, La Grange 3; W R Glaseock, Oakley 4.

J W Harper, Booneville; J C Heberling, Glasgow 1; R V Harvey, Ridge Prairie 3; G F Houston, Georgetown 1; J S Henderson, Fulton 1; R V Harvey, Ridge Prairie.

Chas. Isler, Brunswick;  
John J Jorder, Russellville 2.

Dr. L L Kingsbury, New Franklin 2, 15, all right; J M Keith, Lexington, (the paper has been sent regularly, and we have remitted the Jan. and Feb. Nos.) W D Keach, Colony 1; P Long, Greenville.

D B Lawrence, Waynesville; D L Latourette, St. Louis; F J G Lea, Big Cedar 1; M P Leints, Rochepot 16.

James Martin, Mt. Pleasant; N McDowell, Greengold 3; W S G Morton, Washington D C; L G Morris, Mt. Fordham; R M McFarland, Hebbardsville 1; J B Matthews, Warsaw; John Mark, Grassy Creek; Jas McClintock St. Albans 2.

G P Nell, Arcadia; S F Wickles, Linden 3; W A Newcomb, Hillsboro.

D Overton, Iowa ville 1.

W N Pryor, Crittenden 1, 30; W H Phillips, Rochepot, (two letters.) 1; M S Pogle, Hickory Grove, (back Nos. sent to Mr B); L Prettyman, Pekin 1, (paper has been sent regularly); Dr G Penn, Peefee; W H Phillips, Rochepot 1; T Peoples, Lebanon; H W Peter, Oregon 2; C Patterson, Lexington 10.

W T Quarles, Richmond 1.

J Roberts, Chesapeake; G Russell, Arcadia; B W Robinson, Clinton; J B Rice, Kennett 2; J S Brogan, Mt Vernon 2; W C Ranney, Jackson; D M Robuck, Peon Creek (Mr. T. has not returned your name, but we shall send you the papers. We presume the omission was accidental.) C S Rankin, Herculaneum 1; M Renfro, Jamestown 1.

Isaac Stickney, Boston; H Scottfield, Hester 1; John Shannon, Palmyra 1; J Sherrill, Licking 5; S Salisbury, Keytville 1; G W Sally, Ralfe 1; C M Sexton, New York, J Scripp & Son, Russellville 1.

J M Taylor, Chesapeake 1; Mrs E Thornton, Calhoun; R F Taylor, Windsor 1, 30; J C Thatcher, Kirtsville 1; W J Tule, Versailles 3; J A Turner, Tully 1.

A Warner, Hudson; Elizabeth Watte, London; T J White, Dover; N A Walcher, Hillsboro 4; J Wilson, Marine 1; L T Wingo, Bellville; John Willis, Dover 1; B R Walker, Cool Bank, (paper will be sent); J S Wright, Chicago; W S Wall, Greenville; G J Warren, Richmond 1.

## Contents of No. 5.

Who gets the Saddle?	169
To every reader of the Valley Farmer; Mo. State Agricultural Society	170
Cultivation of asparagus; Pacific railroad	171
Correspondence; Destruction of Timber	172
Destruction of Timber; Culture of Flax; The Crops, Fruit, &c.	173
American Pomological Society; Hemp premiums	175
Rhubarb, or pie plant	176
How to treat young apple trees	177
Deadening timber; Franklin county Ag. Society	178
Bloody murrain and snake bites; Seed corn, Cutting timber	179
Bond county exhibition; The Curculio	180
Destruction of Timber	181
Boon county Agricultural Society; N. W. Mo. Agricultural Society; Breaking horses	182
Sick-headache; Boy thrift; Planting corn; Don't eat horse radish too freely; Western Evangelist	183
Improved boring machine; planting Hedges	184
Culture of the grape—No. 6	185
American Pomological Society	186
Valedictory address of Lewis G Morris; planting for posterity	187
Cox & Robert's Thresher and Cleaners	188, 189
Well Digging	190
Tall Corn	190

## EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Our book table	193
Trial of corn planters	195
Culture of Melons; Look out for the striped bugs; To keep wheel tires tight; Hints for building a barn	196
An excellent plan for growing cucumbers; A valuable remedy; Use of Guano, Cures for various diseases	197
To raise giant asparagus; How to rear pigs; Finality on the strawberry	198
Domestic Recipes; The markets	199
Indian Corn; Edmund Ruffin, of Va.; Remedy for the potato rot	200
Raising and feeding hogs; Fine stock; A new mode of fencing	201

## THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

Progress and Improvement; Thomas' Horticultural garden; personal	202
Words for the dejected; Flashy young ladies; Description of choice annuals; Boston ginger bread; Cure for a dry cough	203
For husbands and wives.	204
Variorable for children	205
List of Letters; Contents; Cherry pectoral	207

**CHERRY PECTORAL.** We have departed from our usual rule in regard to the advertising of Medicines, in admitting the notice of the *Cherry Pectoral* to our columns. It is not a patent medicine, but one, the contents of which, are well known to the medical profession, and which has proved highly beneficial in the case of a number of our acquaintances, who were seriously afflicted with pulmonary complaints. Some of our most skilful and eminent physicians recommend it to their patients in their regular practice, and we feel that we are conferring a favor upon the public by making known its virtues.—*Louisville Ch. Advocate.*

When death is at the door, the remedy which would have saved life, if administered in time, comes too late. Do not trifle with disease. Rely upon it, that when the stomach will not

digest food, when faintness and lassitude pervade the system—when the sleep is disturbed, the appetite feeble, the mind lethargic, the nerves unnaturally sensitive, and the head confused—rely upon it, that when these symptoms occur, the powers of vitality are failing, and that, unless the mischief is promptly checked, *life will be shortened*, as well as rendered miserable. Now we know from a mass of testimony, greater than was ever before accumulated in favor of one remedy, that *Hopland's German Bitters* prepared by Dr. C. M. Jackson, Philadelphia, will immediately abate, and in the end, entirely remove all of these disorders as surely as a mathematical process will solve a problem. Who, then, will endure the agony, and the risk of life, with health and safety within reach?

### To All Whom it May Concern!

The attention of Parents, Guardians and others is called to the Large, Fashionable and Cheap Stock of

### BOY'S CLOTHING

Constantly on hand at the

**Tom Thumb Clothing Store,**  
No. 99, late 115 North Third street, between Vine and Locust, St. Louis.

### 50 Good Books for Farmers,

SENT FREE OF POSTAGE.

**C. M. SAXTON, AGRICULTURAL BOOK PUBLISHER,**  
No. 102 Fulton street, (up stairs), New York city.

#### Books for the Country.

- I. The Cow, Dairy Husbandry, and Cattle Breeding. Price 25 cents.
- II. Every Lady her own Flower Gardener. Price 25 cts.
- III. The American Kitchen Gardener. Price 25 cts.
- IV. The American Rose Cultivator. Price 25 cts.
- V. Prize Essays on Manures. By S. L. Dana. Price 25 cts.
- VI. Skinner's Elements of Agriculture. Price 25 cts.
- VII. The Pests of the Farm, with directions for Eradication. Price 25 cts.
- VIII. Horses—their Varieties, Breeding, Management, &c. Price 25 cts.
- IX. The Hive and Honey Bee—their Diseases and Remedies. Price 25 cts.
- X. The Hog—its Diseases and Management. Price 25 cents.
- XI. The American Bird Fancier—Breeding, Raising, &c. Price 25 cents.
- XII. Domestic Fowl and Ornamental Poultry. Price 25 cents.
- XIII. Chemistry made Easy for the Use of Farmers. Price 25 cents.
- XIV. The American Poultry Yard. The cheapest and best book published. Price \$1.
- XV. The American Field Book of Manures. Embracing all the Fertilizers known, with directions for use. By Brown. Price \$1 25.
- XVI. Bulst's Kitchen Gardener. Price 75 cents.
- XVII. Stockhart's Chemical Field Lectures. Price \$1.
- XVIII. Wilson on the Cultivation of Flax. Price 25 cts.
- XIX. The Farmer's Cyclopaedia. By Blake. Price \$1 25.
- XX. Allen's Rural Architecture. Price \$1 25.
- XXI. Phelps' Bee Keeper's Chart. Illustrated. Price 25 cents.
- XXII. Johnston's Lectures on Practical Agriculture. Paper, price 50 cts.
- XXIII. Johnston's Agricultural Chemistry. Price \$1 25.

- XXIV. Johnston's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology. Price \$1.
  - Randall's Sheep Husbandry. Price \$1 25.
  - XXVI. Mims' American Bee Keeper's Manual—price \$1 00.
  - XXVII. Dadd's American Cattle Doctor. Complete—price \$1 40.
  - XXVIII. Peasenden's Complete Farmer and Gardener, 1 vol.—price \$1 25.
  - XXIX. Allen's Treatise on the Culture of the Grape—price \$1 00.
  - XXX. Youatt on the Breeds and Management of Sheep. Price 75 cents.
  - XXXI. Youatt on the Hog. Complete. Price 60 cts.
  - XXXII. Youatt and Martin on Cattle. By Stevens. Price \$1 25.
  - XXXIV. The Shepherd's own Book. edited by Youatt, Skinner and Randall. Price \$2.
  - XXXV. Stephen's Book of the Farm, or Farmer's Guide Edited by Skinner. Price \$1.
  - XXXVI. Allen's American Farm Book. Price \$1.
  - XXXVII. The American Florist's Guide. Price 75 cts.
  - XXXVIII. The Cottage and Farm Bee Keeper. Price 50 cents.
  - XXXIX. Hoare on the Culture of the Grape. Price 50 cents.
  - XL. Country Dwellings; or the American Architect. Price \$6.
  - XLI. Lindley's Guide to the Orchard. Price \$1 25.
  - XLII. Gunn's Domestic Medicine. A Book for every married man and woman. Price \$3.
  - XLIII. Nash's Progressive Farmer. A Book for every boy in the country. Price 50 cents.
  - XLIV. Allen's Diseases of Domestic animals. Price 75 cents.
  - XLV. Saxton's Rural Hand-book. 2 vols. Price \$2 50.
  - XLVI. Beattie's Southern Agriculture. Price \$1.
  - XLVII. Smith's Landscape Gardening. Contains Hints on arranging Parks, Pleasure Grounds, &c., &c. Edited by Lewis K. Allen. Price \$1 25.
  - XLVIII. The Farmer's Land Measurer; or Pocket Companion. Price 50 cts.
  - XLIX. Bulst's American Flower Garden Directory. Price \$1 25.
  - L. The American Fruit-Grower's Guide in Orchard and Garden. Being the most complete Book on the subject ever published. Price \$1 25.
- C. M. SAXTON,  
152 Fulton street N. Y.

### Atkins' Self-Raking Reaper.

FORTY of these machines were used the last harvest in grass or grain or both, with almost uniformly good success in nine different States and Canada.

TWENTY-SIX PREMIUMS, including TWO at the Crystal Palace, (silver and bronze medals,) were awarded it at the autumn exhibitions. I am building only 300, which are being rapidly ordered. Mr. Joseph Hall, Rochester, N. Y., will also build a few.

Early orders necessary to insure a Reaper. Price at Chicago \$1750—75 cash with order, note for \$50, payable when Reaper works successfully, and another for \$50, payable 1st December next, with interest. Or 160 cash in advance. Warranted to be a good Self-Raking Reaper.

Agents properly recommended wanted throughout the country. Experienced agents preferred. It is important this year to have the machines widely scattered.

Descriptive circulars with cuts, and giving impartially the difficulties as well as successes of the Reaper, mailed to post-paid applicants.

N. B. Wm. M. Plant & Co. are my authorized agents for the sale of my latest IMPROVED MACHINES, where one may be seen set up at their warehouse on Main street, between Market and Chesnut, St. Louis, Mo. All orders addressed to them will be promptly attended to.

J. S. WRIGHT,  
Prairie Farmer Warehouse.  
Chicago, Feb. 1854.